THE TIMES 40p

No. 65,517

SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

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Weekend, PAGE 8

10 15
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MAGAZINE

Sorrow on the shore
Simon Barnes in Wales
Weekend, PAGE 15

A feast of rugby
Rob Andrew: How England can win, P52
David Hands: Profile of Scots captain, P50
Magnus Linklater: The view from Edinburgh, P22

Shadow minister says Prince of Wales is not fit to be King

Davies: attacked Prince

By Nicholas Wood
Chief Political Correspondent
and James Landale

RONALD DAVIES, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, was at the centre of a political storm last night after claiming that the Prince of Wales was unfit to be king.

In a BBC television programme, Mr Davies, MP for Caerphilly, said that the breakdown of the Prince's marriage and his *hypocrisy over* wildlife disqualified him from succeeding to the throne.

He accused the Prince of "talking to vegetables" while encouraging his young sons to "kill animals for fun". He also alluded to the Prince's impending divorce and his admitted adultery with Camilla Parker-Bowles by saying that the future of *the monarchy could not be separated* from the personal qualities of its heirs.

Mr Davies, who accompanied Tony Blair on a St David's day tour of principality yesterday, rushed out a hasty if fulsome apology after his *outburst sent tremors through the* Labour leader's office. His views were a blow to Mr Blair's new Labour crusade in which he has sought to repudiate much of radical heritage, including fringe causes such as republicanism, and to present his party as in tune with mainstream middle-class attitudes.

The interview was recorded for *BBC Wales Welsh Lobby* several days ago, but only transmitted late last night. Mr Blair became aware of Mr Davies's outspoken remarks last night.

In the interview, which became even more controversial after the *Princess of Wales's* decision on Wednesday to agree to a divorce, Mr Davies said: "You can't divorce from the continuation of the monarchy the individuals who are likely to *succeed to the monarchy. You must* focus, for example, on Prince Charles and you must ask yourself the question, is this person the fit sort of person to continue the tradition of monarchy, and come to the conclusion: no he isn't."

As news of Mr Davies's remarks swept through Westminster, provoking a contemptuous response from Tory MPs and demands for his immediate dismissal from the Shadow Cabinet, the hapless frontbencher issued a detailed apology.

He said: "In an extended TV interview for what was billed by the *BBC as a light-hearted look at the* monarchy, and in expressing my disapproval of the Prince of Wales's support for blood sports, I made a number of remarks which could be taken as a comment on his personal morality, and his fitness to be king. *In view of Labour's support for the* monarchy, and the offence these comments could cause, I withdraw them and apologise.

"I should add that in the rest of the interview, I stressed respect for the Royal Family, and the admira*tion that exists for the Queen and* the Queen Mother in particular.

"I should further add that the interview was conducted before the announcement that the Princess of Wales had agreed to a divorce.

"My comments on the effect of the monarchy of the troubles faced by the Prince and Princess of Wales were nonetheless wrong and I will be writing to Prince Charles to apologise."

The Prince left last night for a skiing holiday in the Swiss resort of Klosters after a day of public engagements in Wales on St David's day.

Royal kiss and tell, page 7
Diary, page 22

US links visa for Adams to ceasefire call

By Arthur Leathley, Philip Webster in Bangkok, and Nicholas Watt

THE Clinton Administration last night granted Gerry Adams a visa to enter Washington but immediately put pressure on the Sinn Fein leader by insisting he would not be attending any meetings at the White House unless the IRA declared a ceasefire.

Mr Adams will be allowed to visit the US for St Patrick's Day celebrations on March 17, despite Unionist calls for him to be barred, but he will face tighter restrictions than when he was able to raise funds for Sinn Fein during a visit to Washington last year.

Senior US officials said last night that Mr Adams would be prevented from raising funds and would not meet either President Clinton or Vice-President Al Gore. The restrictions were said by Washington officials to reflect the President's irritation that Sinn Fein had failed to respond to calls to reinstate its ceasefire.

The decision to grant Mr Adams a visa came as John Major and John Bruton joined forces to restate their demand *for an imminent* cessation of violence — following what British officials agreed was a "difference of emphasis" in the way the two had reacted to the IRA's refusal on Thursday night to announce an immediate end to violence.

However, the Prime Minister came under attack from *Mr Adams in the wake of his* condemnation of an IRA statement as a "sick joke". Mr Adams accused Mr Major of making a "knee-jerk" response to an IRA statement that accused Britain of placing *preconditions in the way of all*-party talks. The Sinn Fein president said that republicans would need reassurance and clarification of the Anglo-Irish communiqué in order to rebuild the peace process.

Mr Major stood by his comments, made in Bangkok on Thursday, in which he described as "pathetic" an earlier IRA statement calling for greater clarification.

Although Mr Bruton *backed Mr Major in challeng*ing Sinn Fein to ask the IRA to declare a new ceasefire, the two leaders appeared at odds over the force of the reaction. Mr Bruton, who is with Mr Major in Thailand, was reported *yesterday to be sur*prised by the ferocity of Mr Major's attack.

Irish sources denied any rift between the two, but it was said, pointedly, that Mr Major had made his statement while *not in possession of all the* facts. "He had assumed that this was the IRA's final word. That appears not to be the case," a senior official said. It *was added that "judgments* are difficult at 5,000 miles".

Mr Major faced criticism at home when it was claimed that he used the prospect of a breakthrough in the Northern Ireland peace process to help *win this week's Commons* vote on the Scott report on the sale of arms to Iraq.

John Marshall, the Tory MP for Hendon South, claimed yesterday that John Major told him that his refusal *to support the Government* would jeopardise the Northern Ireland peace process. He said that the Prime Minister had made clear that Ulster Unionists were "holding a pistol to his head", adding that *defeat for the Government last* Monday would delay plans to bring about all-party talks.

Mr Marshall's account provoked angry accusations from Labour that the Prime Minister had used the prospect of a *date for all-party talks* to help to avert a damaging Commons defeat.

Mr Marshall met Mr Major twice in the three hours before the vote, which the Government won by a majority of

Continued on page 2, col 6

MIKE SCOTT

Tracey Dyer and Jordan: "I had absolutely no idea what happened," she said

Mother who gave birth in coma recovers

By Kate Alderson

A WOMAN who was in a *coma for ten days after suffer*ing a rare life-threatening condition awoke to be told she had given birth to a healthy boy.

Tracey Dyer, 30, lost consciousness soon after going into labour with her second child, Jordan. She was affected by *amniotic fluid embo*lism, in which fluid surrounding an unborn baby enters the mother's lungs, causing breathing problems and blood clotting. The condition affects about one woman in 60,000, *and kills 80 per cent of* sufferers.

"When they told me I had given birth to Jordan I just couldn't believe it, I had absolutely no idea what had happened," Mrs Dyer said. "I *cried when I held Jordan in* my arms for the first time. He is absolutely gorgeous."

Doctors treating Mrs Dyer, who yesterday returned to her home in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, described her recovery and successful birth as "nothing short of miraculous". While in labour, Mrs Dyer began to haemorrhage and was *rushed into* surgery where she underwent three operations, including a hysterectomy. She was in a critical condition for 72 hours and received 74 pints of blood during transfusions.

Gavin MacNab, a consultant obstetrician at Sunder*land General Hospital*, despaired that his patient might not pull through: "We used up all our blood supplies at the hospital as it was virtually coming out as quickly as we were putting it in."

Mrs Dyer, a shop worker who has another son aged five, described how she awoke from her coma on February 13. "I had absolutely no idea where *I was and thought I* might have dozed off for a *while," she said.*

Her husband Gary, 29, said he was unable to sleep or eat properly while his wife was in a coma: "I should have been a celebrating dad but I never stopped praying that Tracey would pull through and Jordan would have a mum to hold him."

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Bacon not artist of 'self-portrait'

The attribution of a painting to Francis Bacon is questioned in a letter to *The Times* today from Richard Shone, the writer on 20th-century art. He points out that the so-called self-portrait dated to around 1930 carries a Winsor & Newton label on the reverse of the "Rathbone" *canvas* board. He says that size of *board did not exist* then and it is inconceivable that the picture could have been painted by Bacon after his known works of 1933-36 **........Page 23**

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Russia expels British 'spy' for second time

By Richard Beeston in Moscow and Bill Frost

A BRITISH businessman accused of spying was *yesterday* barred from Russia for the *second time in seven years.* Moscow alleged that Nigel Shakespear had been engaged in "activities incompatible with his status", the diplomatic term for espionage.

The Russian Foreign Ministry told the British Embassy in Moscow that Mr Shakespear, a security *consultant*, was no longer welcome and that his *visa had been revoked.* He was ordered out of the country *for what* was described as suspicious behaviour.

Mr Shakespear, 46, who was last night with his wife's family in Highgate, north London, was said to be very upset by his expulsion. He strenuously denied spying and insisted that he had no idea why the Russians *had forced* him to board a London flight after he returned *to* Moscow from a business trip to Ka*zakhstan two* weeks ago. "The charge is totally unjustified," he said, adding: "I am not going to speculate on why I was expelled ... I thought I was off their blacklist ... but now it looks as though I will *not be returning* to Russia for the foreseeable future."

Mr Shakespear's father, Colonel Gordon Shakespear, from Hartley Wintney in Hampshire, said his son's career had been ruined by the expulsion. "He *is absolutely* shattered — the whole family *is. He worked so hard on his* Russian and was hoping his *new job* with a security consultancy would work out well."

The British Embassy in Moscow said that it was seeking clarification for the withdrawal of Mr Shakespear's visa and would respond *formally* once the Russians had offered an explanation. *In London the Foreign* Office said: "We are aware of *the reports* and we are investigating."

Mr Shakespear was previously expelled from Russia in May 1989 during a tit-for-tat spy row. He was the assistant military attaché at the British Embassy at the time. *He later* resigned from the armed forces and worked hard *to re*-establish good relations with

Continued on page 2, col 3

British Museum piazza grant

The British Museum was awarded £30 million by the Millennium Commission to *transform the two-acre* courtyard encircling its Round Reading Room into an indoor piazza with restaurants and cafés that will be open until late evening.

Private benefactors have pledged £21 million towards the £72 million scheme, with £4 *million* coming from the Sainsbury family. The overcrowded museum's six million visitors a year make it the most visited of its type in the world **.................Page 4**

Police start CS spray patrols

***Police officers* in England and Wales began patrolling with CS sprays despite warnings of possible health hazards to the public and potential claims for damages.**

More than 2,000 officers in 16 forces, including the Metropolitan Police, were issued with the canisters, *which can incapacitate an* assailant within seconds. They will be on *trial for six* months **.................Page 5**

Customs using robot subs to find drugs

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

CUSTOMS officers are deploying robot submarines to stay a step ahead of international drug cartels.

Three robots, codenamed Phantom, are being secretly *used at British ports including* Southampton and Liverpool, to detect *packets* of cocaine, heroin and other drugs welded to hulls of ships.

Drug smugglers, especially from South America, have been increasingly using cargo vessels to ship drugs into European ports, *including* Britain. Captains of the ves*sels have become the innocent* players in the worldwide narcotics trade, with the contraband welded to parts of the hull under the waterline by divers working for South American drug cartels. When the ships arrive at British ports, the packets are removed by divers working for the drug smugglers.

Doug Huntington, of Macartney Underwater Technol*ogy in Windermere, Cumbria*, whose company supplied Cus*toms* with the robot vehicles, said yesterday: "Officers are using them to investigate suspect ships from Panama, Colombia and the Caribbean." About 50 Colombian coal ships call every year at Liverpool alone, he said. "They are all suspect ships. The ships' *captains have no idea what* has been attached."

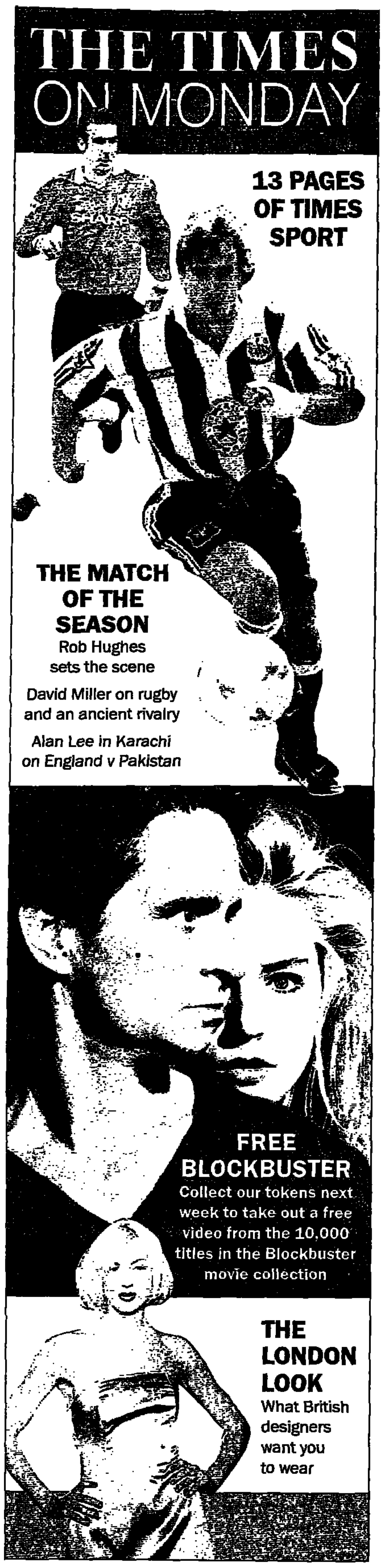
The underwater probes, details of which will be disclosed next week at Oceanology International in Brighton, are operated by remote control from a Customs van at the dock. Fitted with underwater *cameras and lighting systems*, the Phantoms relay pictures *back to the van where* officers view them on a televsion screen. Mr Huntington said the favourite spots where drug packets are welded lie just above the rudder.

Customs are operating three Phantoms. The machines, weighing 70lb, are about the "size of a dustbin".

Many British ports are so polluted *they can pose a risk to* divers. Moreover, robots can work all day.

"I know Customs and Excise have had some successes with the Phantoms," Mr Huntington added.

WEATHER	26
CROSSWORD	26
COURT & SOCIAL	24
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	25
SIMON JENKINS	22
BUSINESS NEWS	27-30
WEEKEND MONEY	31-43
SPORT	46-52
GARDENING: WEEKEND	4
BOOKS: WEEKEND	10, 11
TRAVEL: WEEKEND	16-23


THE TIMES ON MONDAY

13 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT

THE MATCH OF THE SEASON
Rob Hughes sets the scene

David Miller on rugby and an ancient rivalry

Alan Lee in Karachi on England v Pakistan

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THE LONDON LOOK
What British designers want you to wear

Mackay refuses to yield over pensions

By Alice Thomson
Political Reporter

THE Lord Chancellor is facing a battle in the Commons over his refusal to accept the principle of splitting pensions on divorce. A formidable cross-party alliance of women MPs was furious at Lord Mackay of Clashfern's decision yesterday not to back the Lords amendment on the issue.

Peers voted by a majority of 21 on Thursday to change the Family Law Bill so that women could have an immediate share of their husbands' pensions when they divorced. But Lord Mackay said the move would be "quite impossible to bring in quickly".

Government sources appeared to be paving the way for a climbdown yesterday morning. But Lord Mackay, architect of the Bill, later made clear that he was likely to try to overturn the defeat when the Bill comes to the Commons. "Pension splitting is not a part of the divorce Bill. It would be quite impossible to do this in this Bill," he said.

Five Tory MPs have privately admitted that they may rebel if he does not support the idea. The MPs pointed out that almost every influential pension group, as well as the Law Society and CBI, had accepted it.

Ann Winterton (C, Congleton) said: "I am very supportive of the idea and the Government should accept the principle. Pensions are an asset whose future should be decided at the time of divorce." Teresa Gorman (C, Billericay) also supported the idea.

Nearly half of the 18-strong executive of the backbench 1922 committee are opposed to the entire Family Law Bill and may consider rebelling on pension-splitting. The Bill will not come to the Commons until after Easter. But with a Government majority falling to only two and Labour determined to push the issue to a vote, the Tory whips are already warning of an embarrassing defeat.

Chris Smith, Shadow Social Security Secretary, said: "We already have several potential Tory rebels who are prepared to vote with us on this issue. If the Lord Chancellor tries to block it, we are hopeful of forcing him to support the principle."

Lord Mackay said yesterday the issue had to be the subject of "mature consideration" because it could cost the taxpayer £1.3 billion and cause legal and practical confusion.

But Baroness Hollis of Heigham, the Labour peer who spearheaded the Lords defeat, said the costs would be negligible and most technical problems had been sorted out already. "The Government has already had talks with the industry who are happy on almost every count. The Bill wouldn't come into force for another two years so any remaining bumps have got time to be smoothed out now," she said.

"The Government has calculated its figures on the premise that women would be able to take their pensions out of unfunded public-sector schemes and the Treasury would lose out because tax benefits would be doubled at divorce. "That is rubbish. Under our proposals the new individual pensions would have to stay with the schemes. Also, by 2000 the loss of tax revenue would be offset by savings on income support."

COSTS COULD BE OFFSET BY SAVINGS ON SOCIAL SECURITY SPENDING

By Caroline Merrell

THE National Association of Pension Funds has attacked the Government's claim that splitting pensions on divorce, rather than at retirement, will cost £1.3 billion. The association says that in January, in answer to a parliamentary question, the Government said the cost would be offset by savings in social security and legal aid spending.

Splitting pensions at divorce could cause a loss of revenue for the Exchequer by allowing one spouse to pay income tax at a lower rate, but the savings on social security are likely to be considerable. At present 1.5 million women rely on the State alone to support them in retirement, compared with 250,000 men.

Sallie Quin, of Fairshares, a group campaigning on behalf of divorced women, said: "Older women who traditionally are more dependent on their husbands will benefit most from a change in rules allowing pensions to be split at the moment of divorce."

As well as fearing the loss of revenue, the Government is believed to be reluctant to change the law because of the effect on non-contributory pension funds, such as those run by the Civil Service and the National Health Service. If pension-splitting is approved, divorced spouses could have the right to transfer large sums from these schemes before funds have been built up.

Anne Ashworth, page 33

Briton is expelled by Russia

Continued from page 1

the Russian authorities and have himself removed from the Moscow Foreign Ministry's blacklist.

Married with four children, Mr Shakespear returned to Moscow in 1993 when he joined Price Waterhouse, the accountants. He resigned at the end of last year and joined Gorandel, a joint British-Russian company specialising in security services and risk management.

Moscow sources indicated yesterday that such firms often employed former KGB officers to advise foreigners on the threat posed to staff by the increasingly powerful Russian mafia and other criminal groups. Old tensions may have marked Mr Shakespear for victimisation.

It was not immediately clear last night if Mr Shakespear's expulsion was prompted by genuine Russian concern that a former British military attaché was working for a security company or if the move was part of a broader espionage game.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Businessman Nigel Shakespear in London last night

Adams is granted US visa

Continued from page 1

one. He made his decision to back the Government 20 minutes before the vote. "He said if he lost the vote this would damage the peace process in Northern Ireland and developments he hoped to bring to fruition would be delayed." Mr Marshall said in the *Hampstead and Highgate Express*.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Chief Whip, said yesterday that Mr Marshall's report of the meetings was "remarkable. I am saddened that the tragic and delicate situation in Northern Ireland should be used to force a reluctant Conservative MP to vote against his judgment on an unrelated matter."

Mr Dewar said that Mr Marshall's account meant that the Prime Minister's assurance that no deals had been done "must now be seriously questioned."

Mr Adams's comments indicated that there is little chance that Sinn Fein will call on the IRA to restore its ceasefire in the short term.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police arrest 19 at Newbury protest

Police arrested 19 demonstrators on the route of the Newbury bypass in Berkshire yesterday as protesters and bailiffs played a violent and dangerous aerial ballet as huge platform cranes moved in to remove protesters from their tree-top homes. After 17 hours over two days only six demonstrators, about a third, have been removed from the treetops. Nick Blandy, the under-sheriff of Berkshire who is charged with carrying out the High Court orders compelling the evictions, conceded the operation was potentially dangerous. But he added: "If there is a misadventure then the protestors will be the authors of their own misfortune."

Underwear man freed

A father of five who was jailed for attacking a man who had stolen underwear from his washing line was freed on bail yesterday pending an appeal. Gary Titmus, 32, was jailed for four months on Thursday, while the thief was let off with a caution. Judge Daniel Rodwell, QC, sitting at Luton Crown Court, granted Titmus bail. The appeal against the sentence is expected to be heard next week.

Race abuse PC resigns

A police constable was asked to resign after allegations that he made offensive racist comments while off-duty in a pub, police said yesterday. PC Dale Holden was drinking in a public house in Loughborough when the remarks were allegedly made. A member of the public overheard the comments and reported the officer and a disciplinary hearing was held. The officer is planning to appeal.

Exporter convicted

A livestock exporter was convicted yesterday of dangerous driving after allegations that he deliberately drove into a group of protesters outside the Essex port of Brightlingsea. Roger Mills, 54, of Framlingham, Suffolk, was fined £1,000 and disqualified from driving for 12 months by Harwich magistrates. Mills denied the charge and sentence was suspended pending his appeal to the Crown Court.

Hostages criticise Lang

John McCarthy and Brian Keenan today criticise ministers for citing the fate of the two former Middle East hostages as justification for not telling Parliament about arms-related sales to Iraq. In a letter to *The Times* they describe television remarks by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, in the wake of the Scott report as "offensive, misleading, and disingenuous".

Letters, page 23

Offer accepted

Steve Wright, 37, a producer for Yorkshire Television who refused to answer a leap year proposal made on air by Debbie Lindley, 22, a weather girl, accepted the offer yesterday morning on GMTV when he handed her a ring.

Terrorist condemns ending of ceasefire

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

A LEADING IRA terrorist has launched a scathing attack on the IRA's decision to end its ceasefire. Joe O'Connell, a member of the Balcombe Street gang, described the resumption of IRA violence as "the most stupid, blinkered and ill-conceived decision ever made by a revolutionary body".

O'Connell, 44, who has served 21 years of a 30-year sentence for his part in the IRA bombing campaign in England in 1974, called on all republicans to press for an immediate restoration of the ceasefire.

In a letter to the Sinn Fein newspaper, *Republican News*, he said that he did not believe the IRA's decision could be justified after 18 months of peace.

O'Connell, who is serving his sentence at Full Sutton jail near York, wrote: "The broad nationalist consensus that has evolved as a result of the IRA ceasefire is the most positive development of it ... This is well worth bearing with and giving the chance to bring the results that are hoped for."

O'Connell's letter was one of a number of letters published by the newspaper which have criticised the resumption of IRA violence.

Council tax rises well above inflation

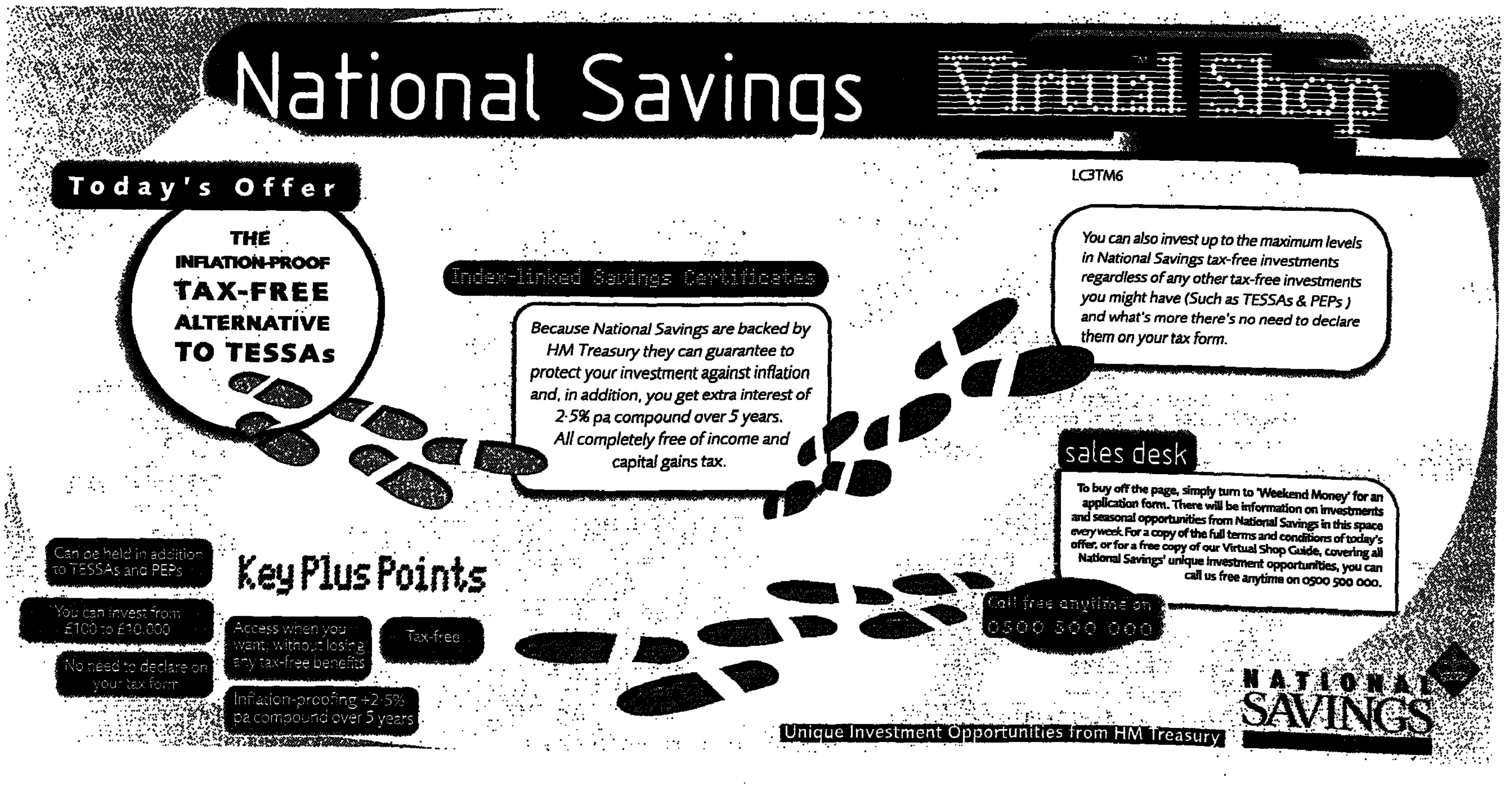
By Ian Murray
Community Correspondent

THE average council tax bill will rise by more than double the present 2.9 per cent inflation rate, according to a survey of over 300 authorities that have now fixed their budgets.

Although the average increase will be around 6.1 per cent, there are huge variations between different authorities. There are now so many anomalies that local authority associations believe the Government's system of allocating grants is becoming unworkable.

The average increase is below the 8 per cent level predicted last year by William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, but it means that most householders will have to find about another 70p a week. Despite paying more, however, most areas will see a reduction in services as councils everywhere have cut back staff in order to stay inside their Government imposed spending limit.

Around £400 million worth of savings have been made, largely through job cuts. Even with cuts Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex have set budgets above the limit will try to persuade the Government that they must have the extra money. Every other county is to spend up to its limit.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Verdict of misadventure recorded

Family to sue over death of teenager after operation

By Kate Alderson

THE parents of a teenager who died during a routine cosmetic operation to have her ears pinned back are to sue the hospital where their daughter died after a coroner recorded a verdict of misadventure yesterday. They have been granted legal aid.

Janine Connor, 14, was undergoing surgery at Withington Hospital, Manchester, when she suffered a cardiac arrest. The inquest at Swinton, Salford, heard how ten doctors in the operating theatre were unable to use equipment which could have saved her because it was so old that they had not been trained to use it.

Janine's mother, Margaret Usher, 46, said after the verdict: "I want to know how Janine died. I feel as if we haven't had any answers today. I think it is horrendous that such old equipment was in use. It should be withdrawn from all hospitals."

Martin Coppel, the coroner, told the hearing: "Janine went for the operation she requested and as a direct result of that she died. I will therefore record a verdict of death by misadventure."

At the hearing, evidence was given that Janine, from Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, opted for a general anaesthetic although she had originally intended to have a local anaesthetic.

An anaesthetist noticed that her face was swelling at the end of the operation and she suffered a cardiac arrest. Doctors said gas was not escaping from her body after being pumped in by the ventilator and so her heart was not able to pump properly.

When doctors tried to give the teenager electric shocks from two 25-year-old defibrillator machines they were unable to get them to discharge because they did not know that at least 5lb of pressure had to be applied to the paddles on her chest.

Almost ten minutes were lost before a third defibrillator, which the doctors could work, arrived. Eventually, doctors had to cut open Janine's chest and manually massage her heart to get it beating normally. She never regained consciousness and died six days later in January last year at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

Mr Coppel said the 20-year-old ventilator machine used on Janine was regarded as "a good solid work horse" and it remained a mystery as to what had gone wrong to cause Janine's breathing problem.

He said that very few medical people would have been trained in the use of defibrillators when the type available were manufactured. "None of them knew about the modus operandi," he said. "There was a set of written instruction nearby. I suppose, under pressure, one doesn't look to see something in writing."

The delay in giving Janine defibrillator shocks "cannot have helped and should not have occurred". He added that the medical team were competent and made their best efforts to save Janine and had almost succeeded.

Neil Kinsella, the family's solicitor, said he would pursue a civil claim for negligence against the hospital trust.

South Manchester Hospitals NHS Trust issued a statement after the verdict expressing sympathy for the family. "It is regrettable that there was some unfamiliarity with the use of the first two defibrillators but there was no evidence that this contributed to the death of the patient," it said, adding that the old defibrillators were no longer in use at either Withington or Wythenshawe hospital.

CHRIS HARRIS

Taking the high road: the duke's body borne on a gun carriage pulled by 12 members of the Atholl Highlanders to its final resting place

Private army guards duke on last march

By Alan Hamilton

THE Duke of Atholl, Britain's only bachelor duke, was given the Highland equivalent of a state funeral yesterday when he was buried in the grounds of his Perthshire family seat accompanied by the ceremony and ritual of Europe's last private army.

Draped in his clan tartan of Murray of Atholl, the duke's body was borne on a gun carriage pulled by 12 members of the Atholl Highlanders to its final resting place in the family burial plot in the grounds of Blair Castle, his ancestral home at Blair Atholl. George Iain Murray, aged 64, the 10th duke, died on Tuesday in hospital in Perth, where he had been since having a stroke in December.

Some 250 family, friends and estate workers attended his funeral service in the ballroom of the white-walled castle, one of Perthshire's major tourist attractions. A conspicuous absence among the mourners was John Murray, the duke's South African third cousin who has reluctantly inherited the title in the absence of any children of the duke, but who has been dispossessed of the castle and its 70,000 acres since the late duke handed them over to a charitable trust. Mr Murray, 67, a retired surveyor who has spent his life in South Africa, told *The Times* he had no desire to inherit the estate, did not want to live in Scotland, and had no intention of using the title of 11th Duke of Atholl.

The funeral procession marched behind the pipes and drums of the Atholl Highlanders, a colourful anachronism of 90 estate workers and Scottish nobility created by Queen Victoria in 1844 and permitted to exist as a private bodyguard to the Dukes of Atholl ever since.

The Very Rev Professor Robert Barbour, a family friend who fought with the duke's father when he was killed in action in Italy in 1945, said of the lately departed duke: "He was a man of sharp intelligence, a brilliant bridge player, a lover of the hills of Atholl, of walking and stalking and shooting, a financier and effective manager, but above all, despite his shyness, a friend to many people."

Praising his revival of his private army, Mr Barbour recalled how the duke once told Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP: "When I kick the bucket, I suppose the only thing people will remember is my private army."

Neighbour must get rid of pig and pay £35,000

By Kate Alderson

A MAN who thrust a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig into a feud with his neighbours was last night dealt a £35,000 blow by a judge.

Paul Telford, 35, a company director, was given two months to get rid of Flossie the pig, and told to pay £15,600 damages to Frank and Mary Bray and their £20,000 legal costs.

Mr Bray, 62, claimed his life was made a misery when Mr Telford became his neighbour in Tynemouth six years ago. During a four-day hearing at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court the Brays claimed Mr Telford began his campaign against them by playing tape-recordings of the Brays' dog barking very loudly as a protest against the noise it made.

He was also alleged to have revved his cars' engines, played with his jet ski at any time of the day or night and turned on a compressor when he left the house.

Flossie became Mr Telford's garden pet in 1991 and the court heard the pig was noisy, smelly, attracted flies and left droppings all over the garden. The Brays eventually took their neighbour to court to seek damages and an injunction to stop him being a nuisance.

Mr Telford, a bachelor who owns a computer company, claimed the barking of the Brays' dog had driven him mad and he simply wanted his neighbours to understand the noise it made. He told the court that Mr Bray was a cantankerous busy-body and likened him to Victor Meldrew in the television series *One Foot In The Grave*.

Julian Hallom, the recorder, said Mr Telford's actions had amounted to nuisance over the past six years. He added: "I want them (the Brays) to be able to enjoy their property in peace and quiet. They should be allowed to sleep at night."

After the hearing Mr Telford said he felt heartbroken at losing his pig. "I will miss Flossie so much, she has been a good friend."

Mother who lied to win bail for husband is jailed

By Bill Frost

A MOTHER who lied to police to win her husband's freedom was herself jailed for three months at the Old Bailey yesterday.

The judge told Nora Tracey, 54, that he was forced to jail her, as an example to her husband Patrick, who is still at large. The court was told that the couple ran a thriving hotel and restaurant business but were driven to the edge of bankruptcy by the recession. Mr Tracey turned to crime, organising a highly lucrative passport fraud. But he was caught, tried and convicted and was awaiting sentence when he absconded.

The Old Bailey was told that as the family's debts mounted, he had been unable to raise enough money to pay for bail pending sentence. Mrs Tracey, of Chessington, Surrey, a qualified nurse who worked for the Mental Health Trust, was told by one of her husband's associates that she could present a bogus bank statement showing she could afford the £10,000 surety.

She took the advice and her husband was freed on bail. Within days he was on the run and is now believed to have fled the country. Mrs Tracey, who admitted using a false instrument with intent, was arrested when her husband failed to appear at Southwark Crown Court for sentence. His co-defendants were jailed for six months.

Counsel for Mrs Tracey said that her husband's treachery had been devastating. She had been a model citizen and the middle-class family had been successful until the recession had hit their business in the early 1990s.

Recorder Andrew Patience, QC, told Mrs Tracey: "It gives me absolutely no pleasure to see you standing in the dock. I greatly admire you for what you and your family have achieved and for what you've done yourself in bringing up three children. You have achieved a great deal in your work and are spoken of highly by those who know you. But I have to have in mind persons in the position of your husband who might be tempted to act in this way. The temptation in the future might be greater if such persons think others like yourself might escape the consequences."

Mrs Tracey's three children, now in their 20s, were too upset to comment outside court but indicated that an appeal was being considered.

BA jumbo jet returns with special delivery

By Joanna Bale

A British Airways jumbo jet which left Delhi with 345 passengers returned with 346 when the aircraft was forced to turn back after a woman gave birth.

Hildegard Meyer, from Switzerland, had complained of a stomach ache to a steward four hours after take-off, but quickly realised she was going into labour. A male Indian doctor and female gynaecologist came forward after an appeal by the captain, and as the plane flew at 30,000 ft Ms Meyer was taken to the first class deck where a makeshift delivery room was set up. The captain headed back to Delhi while stewardesses Leah Clay and Carole Hayer helped with the delivery. Ms Meyer gave birth to a healthy 6lb 6oz boy as the wheels of the plane touched down again at Delhi.

A BA spokeswoman said: "A huge cheer went up among the passengers when the captain announced the birth."

BA said it was too early to say if the woman could be penalised for travelling after the 36-week limit for pregnant women. "At the moment we are just happy that mother and baby are doing well."

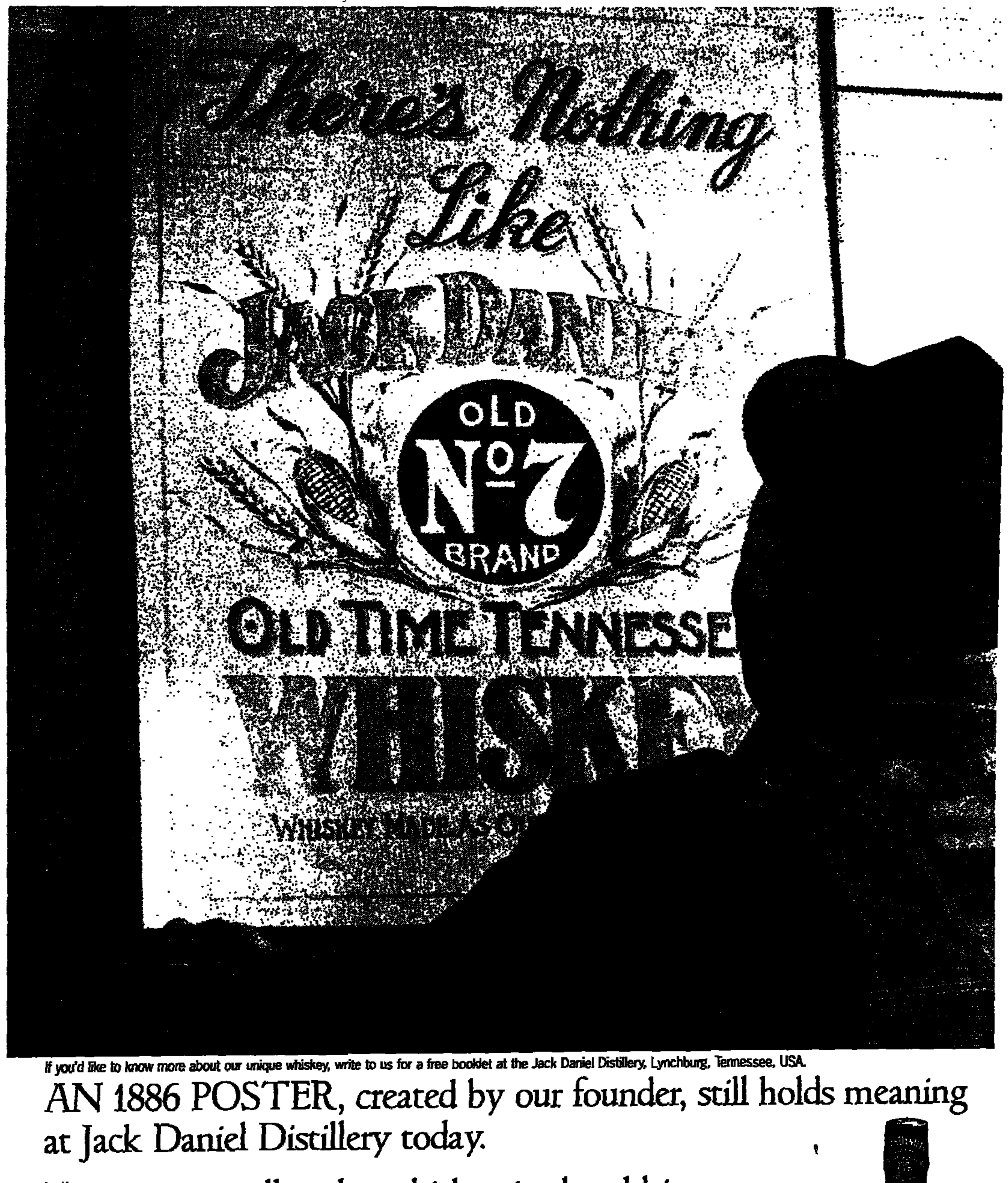
Me Phil Collins, you Tarzan

THE rock singer Phil Collins is to write the songs for Walt Disney's latest big-budget cartoon, it was confirmed yesterday. *Tarzan*, due for release in 1998, will feature at least six songs by the Genesis drummer, who won a Grammy in 1984 for the title song of the film *Against All Odds*.

Tarzan is in pre-production and Disney has not chosen any actors for the roles of Tarzan or Jane. Peter Schneider, president of Walt Disney feature animation, said he thought that Collins would bring "something very special to the creative process. He is one of the greatest songwriters of our time and we have long admired his ability to capture emotion and humour in his work."

Collins, 44, who was recently divorced from his American wife, Jill, lives in a rented chalet in Hermance, near Geneva. He has won six Grammy awards and sold an estimated 60 million albums. His most recent album was *Both Sides*, released in 1993. He has written songs for the films *White Knight* and *Buster*, in which he starred.

Collins: will write at least six songs for film



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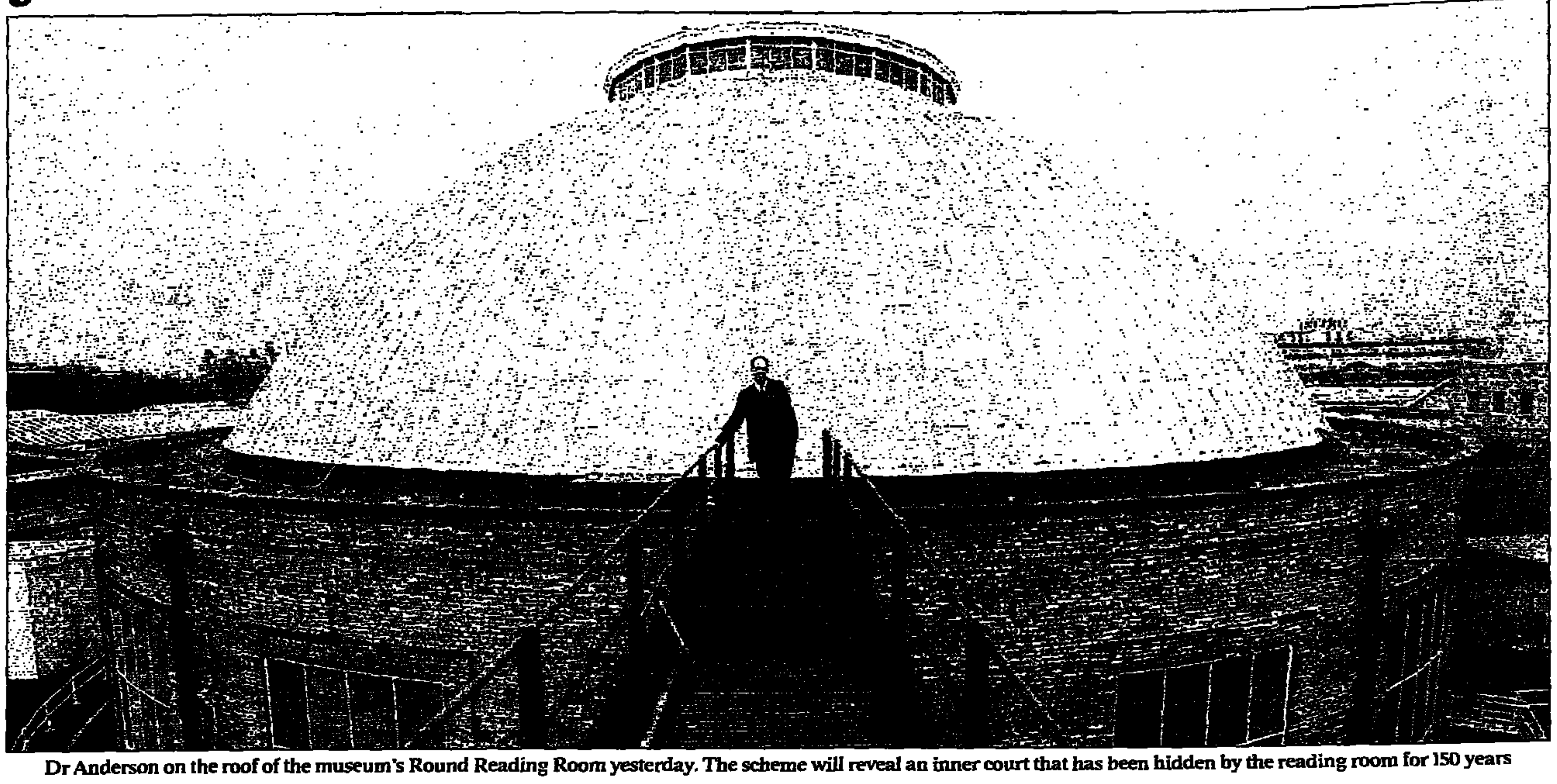
JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Lottery and donors to transform museum

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent



ROBIN MAYES

Dr Anderson on the roof of the museum's Round Reading Room yesterday. The scheme will reveal an inner court that has been hidden by the reading room for 150 years

THE British Museum was yesterday awarded £30 million by the Millennium Commission to transform the two-acre courtyard encircling its Round Reading Room into an indoor piazza with restaurants and cafés that will be open until late evening.

A further £6 million has been given by Walter Annenberg, the former American ambassador to Britain, and £4 million by the Sainsbury family. They are among private benefactors who have been so impressed by the £72 million scheme that they have pledged £21 million towards it. Several other seven-figure gifts are at "an advanced state of negotiation". The Millennium Commission's money comes from the National Lottery.

Sir Claus Moser, a trustee of the museum and chairman of its development trust, said that inflation was likely to push the target beyond £72 million. Despite fierce competition from other arts institutions seeking to match lottery funding, he was confident of meeting the target: "We have a long way to go but a few years in which to do it. Luckily, there are a number of people in the world who think the British Museum is the greatest thing."

A neo-classical building originally intended for 50,000-100,000 visitors a year will be transformed to cater for the six million people who come annually in the 1990s. The Temple of Antiquities, which boasts 6½ million objects, is one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions.

The museum is the most visited of its kind in the world: the 4.9 million annual visitors to the Metropolitan in New York and the 4.7 million to the Louvre in Paris pale against its 6.1 million.

Dr Robert Anderson, the director, said that the museum was desperate for more space. The scheme would enable it to deal with major overcrowding. Among the areas to be increased is that for educational activities. Dr Anderson said that school parties came in vast numbers: "They didn't come in the 1820s, as far as we know."

The complex, described as London's answer to the Pyramid at the Louvre, will enhance the townscape. Under designs being prepared by Sir Norman Foster and Partners, the inner court, concealed since the Round Reading Room was constructed at its centre, will be revealed for the first time in 150 years. Spencer de Grey, of Sir Norman's practice, said that before the reading room was constructed visitors were able to wander through the courtyard before entering the galleries.

Dr Anderson said that Mr Annenberg and his wife Leonore had long been friends of Britain. They contribute large sums in the United States but have also been generous here, notably to St Paul's Cathedral and the National Gallery. The donation will go towards an information centre within the reading room.

The African galleries within the ethnographic section will be named after the Sainsburys. Four members of the family are involved in the funding: Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, David Sainsbury, the chairman of the supermarket chain, and his wife Susan.

The development programme is intended to mark the museum's 250th anniversary in 2003. Work is due to start in February 1998 after the British Library has moved the books to its new premises in St Pancras and must be completed by the end of 2000.

Courtyard splendour is revived

THE Norman Foster scheme will re-open the magnificent great courtyard of the British Museum, which has been unseen for 150 years. Preserved in the centre will be the great round Reading Room, freed of the bookstack blocks at present cluttering the courtyard. The outside of the rotunda will be re-clad in stone and the distinctive twin-arched windows open to view on the outside.

The glass-roofed courtyard is intended as a major public concourse to be open from 8.30am to 10pm. It is proposed as the centrepiece of a new London heritage walk from St Pancras Station to Covent Garden.

The latest design is simpler and bolder than earlier versions. The courtyard is much more open and the staircases around the rotunda have been set back to reveal its splendour.

Philanthropists allied by a love of art

By Dalya Alberge

THE multimillion-pound donations to the British Museum have come from some of the most prominent arts patrons. The philanthropy of Walter Annenberg, an American Ambassador to Britain during the Nixon Administration, is legendary; he has been described as one of the most generous private citizens in history.

The Sainsburys, who in 1993 overtook the House of Windsor as Britain's richest family with a total fortune of £1.9 billion, have distinguished themselves among Britain's most generous donors. They are best known for their support for the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing, and are thought to give up to £30 million a year.

Mr Annenberg, 87, made his fortune from publishing, television and radio stations. In 1991 he promised his art collection, one of the finest in the world, to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, of which he is a trustee. More than 50 Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works, worth $1 billion (£670 million), will go to the museum after his death. The collection includes masterpieces by Degas, Monet, Renoir and Van Gogh.

A Japanese corporation offered $1 billion to buy them. Mr Annenberg replied: "I appreciate your offer, but you are asking me to sell members of my family."

Museums in Los Angeles, Washington and Philadelphia mounted a discreet campaign for at least part of the collection. But Mr Annenberg said: "It is my intention that all my paintings should go to the Metropolitan. I love them with a passion and I want them to stay together when I'm gone." In 1993 he bought Van Gogh's *Wheat Field with Cypresses* for £37 million and donated it to the Met.

Mr Annenberg's charitable giving goes beyond the arts: he co-founded the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Manhattan and endowed the University of Pennsylvania with a school of journalism.

He served as Ambassador to Britain between 1969 and 1974. In 1976 the Queen awarded him an honorary knighthood, partly as a result of his philanthropic efforts, including a large contribution to the restoration of St Paul's Cathedral. In 1988 he gave $5 million to the National Gallery.

Generous donors in the Sainsbury family include David Sainsbury, great-grandson of the couple who founded the retail chain with a dairy shop in Drury Lane 125 years ago. Mr Sainsbury, chairman of the company, has been described as one of the richest men in the country. Henry Moore was his godfather, and he grew up in a house full of art treasures. His philanthropy extends beyond the arts to education, mental health and the Third World. Lord Owen has called him "one of the most imaginative philanthropists we are likely to see this century" because he "allows the seeds to germinate and grow".

A large donation from his parents, Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, enabled the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts to be established at East Anglia University.

Annenberg: made his fortune in the media

Sainsbury: praised for his imagination

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death-crash sentences increased

The Lord Chief Justice yesterday signalled a tough new attitude to death-crash drivers when he ruled in the High Court that the four-and-a-half-year sentence on Paul Dawes, 21, of Hartlepool, who ran over and killed a 70-year-old man while trying to steal his car, was "unduly lenient". He was ordered to serve six years.

The court then increased from three to five years the sentence of Anthony Jackson, 24, of Bradford, who had killed a teacher while driving at speed the wrong way down a one-way street. The original sentences in both cases had caused anger among relatives and the local communities.

Pescado charge

Joseph O'Connor, being tried on six manslaughter charges arising from the sinking of the trawler *Pescado*, has been charged with an additional manslaughter charge in relation to life-saving equipment. He denies all charges.

Venables ruling

Judgment has been reserved until next week in a High Court action by Terry Venables, England football coach, against a former business partner from whom he is trying to reclaim £144,359 after a failed pubs venture.

On a plate

Car numberplate N1 CKY was bought for £71,000 yesterday as 80 plates fetched £1.3 million at a Brooks auction in London. 1 GW went for £69,800 and an anonymous buyer phoned home before spending £16,900 on 1 ET.

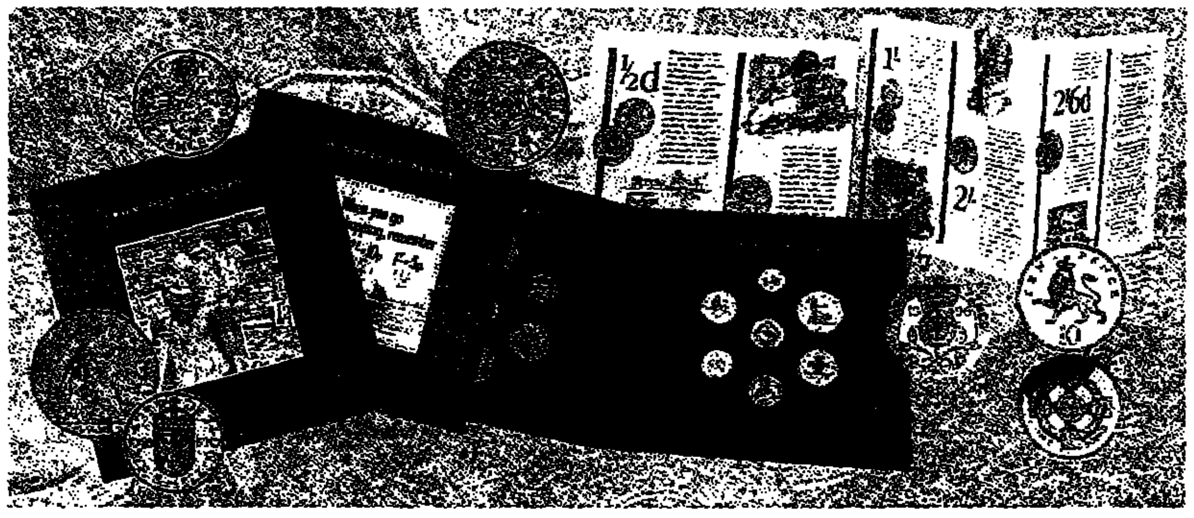
Man shot dead

A 33-year-old man died in hospital early yesterday after he was was shot outside a fish and chip shop in Winson Green, Birmingham. Bystanders heard four shots and saw a car speed away, leaving the man lying in the street.

Shopping shock

The wheels on 250 shopping trolleys at a supermarket in Windermere, Cumbria, had to be changed because customers were receiving electric shocks. The complaints started after the store had a new floor covering fitted.

DO YOU REMEMBER BOBS, TANNERS AND FLORINS?



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Mother of snooker ace cleared of porn plot charges

By Carol Midgley

THE MOTHER of the snooker ace Ronnie O'Sullivan was cleared of dealing in allegedly obscene magazines and videos yesterday.

Maria O'Sullivan, 39, was said to have received a string of detailed instructions issued by her convicted murderer husband Ronald from his prison cell to keep the "thriving" business empire afloat.

The lucrative operation, centred on Soho in London, was said to have raked in hundreds of thousands of pounds of material depicting a variety of sexual acts.

The mother of two, who lives in a £750,000 mansion in Chigwell, Essex, pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to having obscene articles for publication for gain at the start of a trial at Southwark Crown Court eight weeks ago.

Several weeks into the hearing, Mrs O'Sullivan, who was on trial with her 40-year-old husband and her brother-in-law Paul, 31, and several others, was discharged from the proceedings after a report in *The Sun* newspaper was said to have breached a Contempt of Court Act order.

Philip Singer, QC, for the prosecution, told the court yesterday that as all her co-defendants had been cleared of the charge, the Crown felt it "had little alternative" but to offer no evidence.

Judge Cotran then told a smiling Mrs O'Sullivan that he would be entering a formal not guilty verdict against her.

During the trial Mrs O'Sullivan was released from a 12-month prison sentence imposed at the Old Bailey last year for £100,000 VAT evasion in connection with the business.

Her co-defendants told the court in evidence, or through counsel, that the magazines and videos the company dealt in were not obscene, and if they were, it did not know details of the contents.

The judge banned publication about the case until the end of the trial yesterday.

For the second half of last year and the beginning of this, Ronnie O'Sullivan, who was just 20 in February, was battling to cope with the fact that both his parents were behind bars. Mr O'Sullivan, ranked world number three and the youngest player ever to qualify for the world championships, was said to have been in "complete disarray".

Since the start of the season last year Mr O'Sullivan, who is nicknamed The Rocket and was tipped to oust Stephen Hendry as world number one, has been knocked out of each of the seven world ranking tournaments in which he has played. Having to look after his younger sister added to the former United Kingdom champion's burden. Clive Everton, the editor of *Snooker Scene*, said that Mr O'Sullivan has coped reasonably well when his father was convicted of stabbing to death Charlie Kray's driver Bruce Bryan, 31, in 1992 after drinking in London. But it was the final straw when his mother was jailed.

Earlier yesterday in court, News Group Newspapers, publishers of *The Sun*, were fined £10,000 and a senior journalist accused of "crass incompetence" by Judge Cotran for a "very serious" contempt of court.

The judge said that the story in *The Sun*'s sports section, headlined "Pot it there Mum", quoted Mr O'Sullivan saying he would celebrate his mother's release from a year-long prison sentence by keeping a firm grip on the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker title.

The judge said inquiries had shown that when the story was first submitted the night lawyer spotted references to Mrs O'Sullivan's conviction and sentence and to her husband serving a life sentence for murder. He pointed those out to a chief sub-editor, who deleted any mention of Mr O'Sullivan but not the information concerning his wife.

"This seems to me an act of crass incompetence on his part," said the judge.

The judge agreed it was not an intentional contempt.

Woman in baby death case must face court

From James Bone
in New York

CAROLINE BEALE, the Briton accused of murdering her baby in New York and trying to smuggle its body on to an airliner, must go back to court on Monday as lawyers continue to argue over a plea bargain that would allow her to return to Britain.

Judge Robert Hanophy told a brief hearing yesterday that the prosecution and defence would continue discussions over the weekend. The District Attorney wants Ms Beale to return to jail as part of a plea bargain that would reduce her charge from murder to manslaughter. Her lawyer insists that she should be allowed to return to Britain, having already served eight months on remand.

Ms Beale's father, Peter, said yesterday that the order for her to return to court was legal torture. "Enough is enough," he said. "Caroline does feel pain, she has been tortured. As far as we are concerned, this is an atrocity."

Ms Beale, 32, of Chingford, east London, was arrested 18 months ago as she tried to board a flight from New York to London with the corpse of her newborn baby wrapped in a plastic bag inside her rucksack. The baby was born less than 24 hours earlier in a hotel room in Manhattan.

Michael Dowd, her lawyer, said: "We are at the point where we either go forward to trial or reach an agreement and any agreement must involve her going home."

RICHARD POHLE

Caroline Beale leaving the Supreme Court in New York with her father yesterday

British tourist in Cyprus 'attacked by troops'

From Michael Theodoulou
in Larnaca

TWO British soldiers serving with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment in Cyprus will be charged with assaulting a British tourist who suffered severe concussion after a late-night incident outside a pub in Larnaca.

Peter Kelly, 23, was "badly battered and bruised, but in a stable condition and out of danger", a doctor at Larnaca hospital said. He was due to fly back to Britain yesterday with his girlfriend, Jane Cole, 21, who had allegedly been insulted by the soldiers in the incident on Wednesday.

The trouble came hours after the regiment's commanding officer lifted a ban on his men visiting pubs on the Larnaca tourist strip following a brawl last Friday.

The incidents have appalled Army commanders waiting for a Larnaca court to pass judgment later this month on three Royal Green Jackets accused of kidnapping, conspiring to rape and killing a Danish woman in the resort of Ayia Napa 19 months ago.

"This really does not help at all," a senior officer said. Ayia Napa has since been out of bounds to all military and civilian personnel from Britain's two sovereign bases.

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment replaced the Royal Green Jackets in January. The Army says that only a tiny minority of off-duty soldiers cause trouble.

Police sources said Wednesday's incident began when a group of soldiers were allegedly abusive to Miss Cole. "It appears the boyfriend went outside with two of the men," the source said. "She alleges when they came back in they told her they had sorted out her boyfriend.

"She went back to her apartment but he was not there so she called the police who found him concussed in hospital." Doctors said he had no brain damage and his skull had not been fractured.

Miss Cole was unwilling to talk to reporters yesterday. Doctors said Mr Kelly was still too unwell to come to the telephone.

Hewitt seeks millions for royal kiss-and-tell interview

Hewitt: five-year affair with Princess of Wales

By Joanna Bale

JAMES HEWITT is asking up to £4 million for a filmed interview in which he discloses details of his love affair with the Princess of Wales. The former cavalry officer, who had a five-year relationship with the Princess, is said to talk frankly about how she confided in him about her marriage problems and how they became lovers.

Anna Pasternak, who wrote the book *Princess In Love*, a sugary account of the affair, and Henry Cole, a film director, are in secret negotiations with television companies interested in buying the worldwide rights. A film industry source said: "They are asking millions. It is being presented as a package in which Hewitt retains full editorial control and that package could cost £4 million but I am sure someone will buy it."

Mr Cole, whose 1994 film *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, starring Elizabeth Hurley as a heroin addict, was panned by critics, was also involved in negotiating Miss Pasternak's deal with the American CBS network to make a television film of her book, which starts shooting this month.

The Hewitt interview was recorded by the award-winning former ITN cameraman Sebastian Rich, who made a fly-on-the-wall ITV documentary about the Prince and Princess of Wales ten years ago, called *In Private, In Public*. Mr Rich, who has worked as a freelance since leaving ITN in 1993, filmed Mr Hewitt, at his home in Devon, answering 130 questions drawn up by Miss Pasternak.

British and US television networks yesterday expressed interest in the footage, its appeal heightened by the news of the royal divorce, but none would admit to be negotiating a deal.

The film gives details of how Mr Hewitt taught Princes William and Harry to ride and how the affair was conducted at Kensington Palace and his home. It is expected to be cut to an hour of footage mirroring the Princess's *Panorama* interview last year, in which she confessed to an affair with Mr Hewitt.

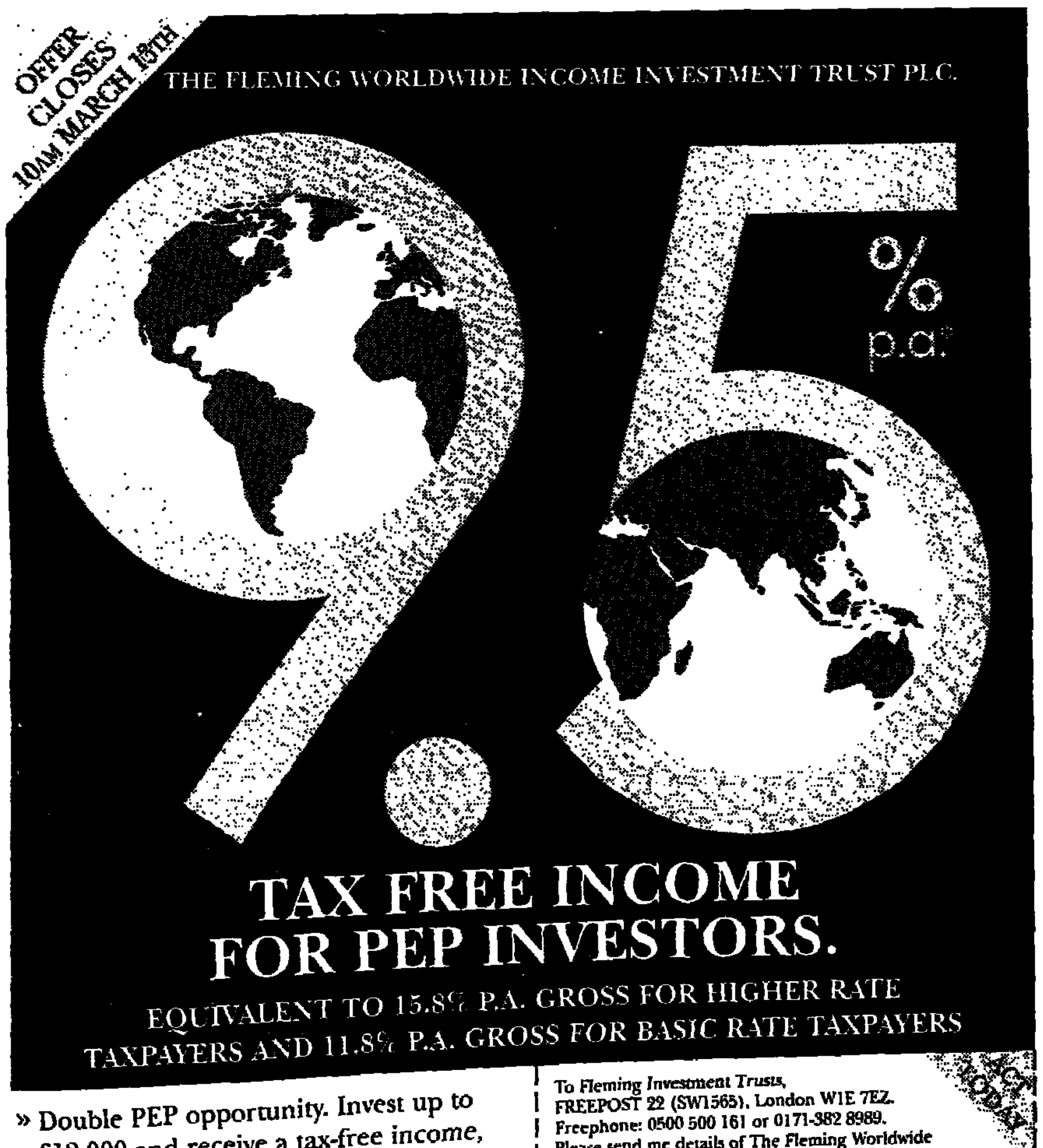
Mr Hewitt, 37, was persuaded to make the documentary by Miss Pasternak. He was branded a cad for co-operating with her book.

He gave away nothing about the interview when he emerged briefly to drive away from his home yesterday in the village of Bratton.

The London office of CBS News, the American network, said: "There was a scramble for Diana's *Panorama* interview and this is undoubtedly going to be the same." NBC Super-channel, which broadcasts across America and Europe, said: "We are definitely interested in buying this programme but have not managed to do so as yet."

Sky Television said it had rejected the interview and was urging other broadcasters to follow suit. Ian Cook, head of news, said: "We are concerned that this type of proposal would see producers receiving large sums of money for an interview in which James Hewitt does not submit himself to independent, rigorous questioning."

Diary, page 22
Letters, page 23



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Latest SAS TV drama fuels call for secrecy

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MILITARY chiefs have been angered by a new ITV documentary series about the SAS, in which former members take part in reconstructions of missions.

The series, *SAS — The Soldiers' Stories*, coincides with moves by the Ministry of Defence and the SAS Regimental Association to make former and serving members of the regiment sign lifetime confidentiality contracts.

The gagging proposal comes after the recent publication of books by former soldiers, including the best-selling *Bravo Two Zero* by Andy McNab, and the screening of a controversial television film, *The One That Got Away*, based on the experiences of Chris Ryan, a former SAS trooper. The two-hour programme about an ill-fated Gulf War patrol provoked a storm of protest from survivors of the mission and relatives of the deceased when it was shown two weeks ago.

The new seven-part series has been made with the cooperation of a dozen former SAS members. One will appear to camera, the others will be shown in silhouette or wearing black balaclavas. They will be seen taking part in reconstructions of SAS missions, including the storming of the Iranian embassy in London in 1980.

Steve Clark, controller of factual programmes at Carlton Television, which has commissioned the series, said the programme would provide the definitive version of the siege and its relief.

"It was shot and directed by some of the men who actually took part," he said. "They made us re-shoot everything until we got it right. We filmed it in Princes Gate, a few doors away from the actual location." Mr Clark said that the programmes take the form of narrative by the former soldiers, some of whom had only recently left the service. The reconstructions take the form of flashbacks.

Other missions dramatised in the series include the battle of Mirbat in Oman in 1972, when nine SAS men held off an attacking force of 400 local insurgents in a small fort. The incident has gone down in regimental legend as one of the SAS's finest missions.

There are also reconstructions of several Gulf War missions, though not the ill-fated Bravo Two Zero mission, and episodes from the Falklands war, including SAS raids on airbases and action behind enemy lines.

The Ministry of Defence said it was aware of the series but had not co-operated with it. "Our only interest in it would be to prevent anything going out that damages national security," a spokesman said.

Privately, however, defence chiefs have made it clear they wish that the series had never been made. They fear that, together with the McNab and Ryan books, it could unleash a flood of important information about the highly secretive service.

Traditionally, the regiment has shunned overt publicity, relying instead on carefully placed media stories over which it has tight control and which allow it to bask in the glory of its heroic achievements.

Although former SAS members — including Sir Peter de la Billière, a former SAS commander who led British forces in the Gulf War — have talked to the media before and some have spoken openly about the SAS, the ITV documentary will be the first series dedicated entirely to the regiment and the first to include dramatic reconstructions made by those who took part in them.

To prevent further details emerging about the regiment's operations, David Lyon, Colonel Commandant of the SAS Regimental Association, recently sent letters and questionnaires to members on the regiment's secrecy proposals telling them that unofficial coverage of its past and present activities was damaging the reputation of the regiment.

The association is also proposing to create a permanent disclosure committee to advise HQ Special Forces and the Ministry of Defence.

Clark: said former SAS men took part in filming

Potter: raced to finish his final two series

Saffron Burrows and Albert Finney who star in Denis Potter's Karaoke

BBC and C4 to honour Potter's dying wish

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE dying wish of Denis Potter will come true next *month when the BBC and* Channel 4 screen the playwright's last two television works, *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* in the first joint venture of its kind.

BBC1 announced yesterday *that it would screen Karaoke*, staring Albert Finney and Julie Christie, on Sundays from April 28, with the four episodes being repeated each week on Channel 4 on Mondays. The drama is semi-autobiographical and tells the *story of a writer who believes* his own characters are coming alive around him.

The sequel, *Cold Lazarus*, with Albert Finney and Frances de la Tour, will then be shown by Channel 4 on Sundays from May 26, repeated on BBC1 from May 27. It is set in London and Los Angeles in 2368, where a priveleged elite is under siege from a guerilla movement.Potter's last public request was that the two broadcasters join *forces to produce and schedule* the two dramas, which he raced to complete before his death from cancer in June 1994.

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, said that the *two broadcasters had done* everything they could to fulfil their promise to Potter. "I'm sure the audience and critics will agree that these last two serials stand up there with the very best of Dennis's work." Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1, *said: "I am glad that* we are able to offer such a fitting tribute to one of the most original voices in television drama."

☐ Ewan McGregor, one of the stars of *Trainspotting*, the *controversial film about drug* addicts, has landed his first Hollywood film role. He will take the lead role as a morgue attendant opposite Nick Nolte in *Nightwatch*.

Soprano plans opera centre for Wales

THE Welsh soprano Dame Gwyneth Jones is planning to set up an opera performance and international study centre at Craig-y-nos castle, Powys, which has a theatre said to be a miniature of Wagner's *Festspielhaus* at Bayreuth.

Dame Gwyneth said it would be her gift to Wales. "I'd rather do something I can build up and control than leave money after my death for scholarships. I intend establishing a charitable trust and hope to bring in other interested people."

Her announcement follows the rejection of the bid for lottery funding by Cardiff Bay Opera House. Dame Gwyneth, a trustee of that scheme, said: "It's disgraceful that Wales *doesn't have its own* place to stage opera. We'll get an opera house by hook or by crook." The project would be a step towards that.

She added: "It's a shame most of the finest Welsh singers *have had to leave Wales to* do their studies." The architect Roger Clive-Powell is to look into the plans.

Weekend, page 17

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Robert Harris on Diana and the Establishment

‘At least 50% of the manipulation has come from the other side, yet it is Diana who ends up with the reputation as the villainous schemer. It has been a classic Establishment job, with no fingerprints left at the scene . . .’

Robert Harris begins a new weekly political column in News Review — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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Satellite puts drivers on the information super-highway

By Kevin Eason
MOTORING EDITOR

DRIVERS looking for a hotel, restaurant or petrol station in an unfamiliar area will soon be able to contact a satellite for help. The OnStar car computer system will also enable them to contact rescue services or send messages to their families.

The equipment will be installed next year on General Motors' Cadillac range. Car owners will be offered a mobile cellular telephone, programmed for a series of services that can be called by pushing a programmed button. The telephone is linked directly to a GM control room, connected to the Global Positioning System network of 20 military satellites.

The satellites track the motorist by signalling to a small transmitter inside the car. Its computer responds to messages from the control room.

Cadillac owners locked out of their cars, for instance, can telephone a freephone number, identify the car using code numbers and a password and ask the control room to trigger the locks to open at a specified time. If they have also locked their mobile telephone inside the car, the freephone number can be called from a telephone box.

If the car breaks down on a strange road, drivers can push a callout button, enabling the control room to fix their position on a digital map and send a rescue lorry. Drivers involved in a "road rage" attack can lock their doors and hit an emergency button on the mobile telephone; the control room will fix the car's position and send in the police.

A driver running low on fuel can receive directions to the nearest petrol station, or find out where the nearest hotel, restaurant or cash machine is. Controllers will also send messages home to worried families or carry out missed errands.

OnStar also works as an anti-theft device because the control room is always able to pinpoint the location of the car, wherever it is driven in the world.

G. Richard Waggoner, president of GM's North American Operations, said: "People are spending more time in their vehicles than ever before and our research shows a tremendous interest in user-friendly technologies that can make driving more secure and enjoyable. Until now, the information revolution has touched the automobile in only the most mechanical and operational ways."

The equipment could be extended to other General Motors models, including those made by Vauxhall, within two years.

Motorists face a future of day-long jams on main routes around big cities by 2005. A road "stress map" by Transport Department officials shows that most motorways are heading for day-time gridlock if current traffic growth continues and the mothballed roads programme is not revived. The worst affected stretches would be most of the M25, most major routes out of London, and motorways around Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield.

☐ Ford recalled more than 150,000 Ford Fiestas yesterday after discovering a seatbelt fault. The company urged drivers of G and H-registered cars to take them to Ford dealers for safety checks.

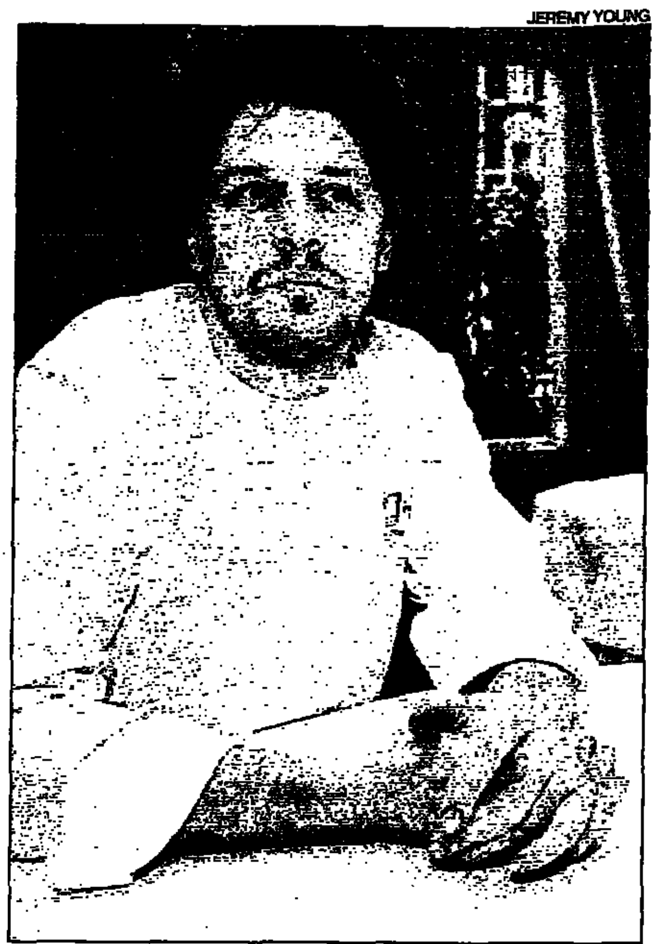
The decision follows an investigation by the Driving Standards Agency, which received complaints from driving schools claiming that the belts might not work in an emergency stop. Repairs on the cars, made between March 1989 and September 1990, will be carried out free.

Peter Barnard, Car 96, page 2

Gourmet ticket for InterCity franchise bidder

By Jonathan Prynn
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JEREMY YOUNG



Marco Pierre White is advising on food on the move

THE award-winning chef Marco Pierre White has been enlisted to back the management bid to buy the InterCity East Coast line.

Mr White, the first British-born chef to be awarded three Michelin stars, is the latest gastronome to attempt to improve the stale-sandwich image of railway catering. His predecessors have included Clement Freud and Prue Leith.

The East Coast management team is believed to have plans for a three-tier catering service on its line: a silver-service restaurant with a menu overseen by Mr White, a midprice, sitdown cafeteria, and a mass-market "crisps and Coke" buffet car.

Further food experience is provided by Lord Sheppard of Didgemere, chairman of the management bid company, Wendfordbray. He stepped down this week as chairman of Grand Metropolitan, the owner of Burger King and Häagen-Dazs ice-cream.

The five-hour journey from London King's Cross to Edinburgh is one of the few on the British Rail network long enough for chefs to prepare and serve a meal of Michelin-star quality. It is heavily used by executives. BT, another adviser to the management team, is thought to be helping with plans for fax machines, chair-back video screens and other electronic equipment on the trains.

The bid is being backed by 3i, Royal Bank of Scotland, CGEA, a French transport company, and Intermediate Capital Group. Rival bids have been made by Sea Containers, National Express and Stagecoach. The successful bidder is likely to take control of the service at the end of May. Three other franchises for which bids closed yesterday were Gatwick Express, which has received bids from two management teams and Virgin Group; Midland Main Line; and Network South Central.

Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, said that 19 companies had expressed interest in bidding for South Wales & West and the Cardiff Railway Company, the latest franchises to go on the market.

Food and drink, The Magazine, page 49

The £3bn tunnel rail link: good deal or rip-off?

THE £3 billion Channel tunnel rail link contract awarded to the London & Continental Railways consortium has been simultaneously hailed as an historic breakthrough in the modernisation of Britain's archaic infrastructure and condemned as a monumental rip-off for the taxpayer.

Which view is correct and who has got the best of the deal — the Government or the private interests represented by the consortium?

☐ Why is the rail link being built?
To reduce journey times on Eurostar passenger services between London and the Continent and on commuter services from Kent and to help to regenerate run-down areas of east London and north Kent. Also because of government embarrassment that Eurostar trains in England cannot match speeds in France.

☐ Is it certain to be completed?
There is a small but genuine risk that the whole £3 billion project, which is being carried out as a joint venture between the public and private sectors, could collapse. The Government is handing over a £1.4 billion cash subsidy and a huge portfolio of publicly owned assets as a "dowry" to London & Continental Railways (L&CR), the consortium selected to build the link. However, under its agreement with the Government, L&CR will not receive a penny of subsidy until the line is at least two-thirds built. That delay is to protect the taxpayer if L&CR fails half way through.

☐ Is L&CR getting "the mother of all sweeteners" to build it, as Labour claims?
As well as £1.4 billion cash, the consortium will be given St Pancras and Waterloo International stations, the Grade 1 listed St Pancras chambers, 120 acres of disused railway land north of King's Cross, 120 acres of land at the site of the proposed Stratford International station, 600 properties along the route of the link, 31 Eurostar trains, two Eurostar depots, and a 999-year concession to operate Eurostar services. Labour claims the total package of "sweeteners" is worth £5.7 billion, largely due to the development potential of the property. However, L&CR argues that it could not realise the assets because most are worthless except as part of a railway and because Eurostar is losing £200 million a year. L&CR is also limited in the profits and income it can earn from the property under the terms of its agreement with the Government.

☐ Would a Labour Government scrap the deal?
Highly unlikely. For all its protests, Labour is as much in favour of the link as the Government. Renegotiating the contract with L&CR could mean many more years of delay in getting it built. A £1.6 billion private-sector contribution is considerably better than none.

☐ How will L&CR finance its bid?
In total, the consortium needs to find £2 billion. The initial phase, before work on constructing the link starts late next year, will be funded by a £150 million mixture of bank debt and financial contributions from L&CR's eight shareholders. The later construction phase will be financed through a £1 billion public share issue on the stock market, more bank borrowings and cashflow from a — by then, it is hoped — profitable Eurostar. The link is expected to be open in 2003.

☐ Why is Eurostar losing so much money?
The train service, though widely admired, has not proved as popular as the Government hoped. Only three million passengers used it last year, about half the forecast. The Brussels service still operates only a third full and is heavily loss-making, although Paris is performing well. It is also being hit by heavy charges by Railtrack every time a Eurostar train is late.

☐ How will L&CR turn round Eurostar?
The consortium is pinning its hopes on better marketing, lower fares, improved ticket distribution and a jazzed-up on-board service to attract more passengers. Eurostar will be, in effect, relaunched when L&CR takes over in April.

☐ Why is Richard Branson so enthusiastic about L&CR?
Mr Branson's Virgin Group has been frustrated in its attempts to win landing slots at Heathrow and Gatwick airports for the lucrative Paris and Brussels air routes. Eurostar gives Virgin an earthbound option that he hopes will transform cross-Channel travel in the way that Virgin Atlantic forced British Airways and other airlines to upgrade Atlantic services. He is also negotiating to buy a Belgian airline to link services with the Brussels Eurostar to create a pan-European transport network.

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BARCLAYS

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Flagstones 'too cold for comfort'

Bishop puts his foot down over cathedral floor

By Ruth Gledhill, religion correspondent

THE Bishop of Chester, fed up with stumbling over the old, uneven flagstones of his cathedral, has dismayed conservationists by insisting the floor be replaced.

The Right Rev Michael Baughen says the late 18th-century floor of the aisle is dangerous and he fears the cathedral could be sued if someone were injured.

He also wants underfloor heating to be installed, arguing that he can no longer bear to watch musicians turn blue while they entertain equally cold congregations.

Conservationists, however, are eager to protect the red sandstone flagstones which are admired by worshippers for their ancient, mellow appearance.

Bishop Baughen said his last wish before his retirement was to have his dream of a new floor fulfilled. "I want to get warm. It really is intolerably difficult. The only way to get heat into the cathedral is to lift the floor and put underfloor heating in.

"The cathedral is renowned. Everyone knows that when you go there for a concert or big event, you put on about 16 layers of clothing and still sit there with the cold coming up through your feet. At the annual NSPCC children's event, everybody endures it rather than being able to relax."

The cathedral does have a Victorian heating system, but the five free-standing heaters have to be turned off during services and performances because they are noisy.

"The floor is impossible to walk down with any dignity at all," the bishop added. "You have to look down all the time and pick your way across the stones. If it was a public building it would have been closed down as dangerous by the health and safety authorities.

"People have twisted their ankles. I have stumbled. I'm surprised the cathedral has not been sued already. It is extremely serious. A properly laid floor would look magnificent."

The cathedral, a former Benedictine abbey founded in the 11th century, has launched its second appeal in 25 years, for £2.55 million, to fund restoration of the floor and other areas. Nearly £1 million has been raised and the cathedral authorities are awaiting permission to start work on the floor, beginning with archaeological excavations.

Dominic Lockett, northern officer of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, has sent a protest letter to England's Cathedral Fabric Commission, which is examining the preliminary proposals. He claims a new floor would ruin the building's character.

"It would look out of place in such an old cathedral. It is a beautifully worn floor. We believe repairs to the broken flags could easily solve the problem," he said.

David Burrows, cathedral administrator, said: "We have problems with people tripping and some have hurt themselves. We are frightened there might be a serious accident. A new floor may look a bit out of place until it is worn a little, but we have to think of safety first."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 3

FINDLAY KEMBER

Royal post: Canon Marion Mingins, 43, above, a residentiary canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, has become the first woman in the Church of England to be appointed a chaplain to the Queen. The ceremonial post, the personal gift of the Queen, will allow Canon Mingins, originally from Tyneside, to preach once a year in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace

The importance of finding time alone with yourself

Credo

THE frenzied pace of modern life, with its onslaught of choices and pressures, paralyses many of us with a fear of silence and solitude. Our daily dependence upon noise and ceaseless activity is perhaps why, for many people, the current season of Lent elicits puzzled reactions.

Eleven days into Lent, the 40 days which mark Jesus's testing in the wilderness, I wonder if we have the courage to make space to face the deeper questions in our own lives. In recent years I have visited Israel on retreat. I return each time surer than ever that the busier I become the greater is my need for inner resources from God who, as the psalmist says, "restores my soul".

The barren wilderness of the Judean desert was for Jesus no weekend break. He wrestled with eternal truths, affirming his own identity with the statement "man shall not live by bread alone". We instinctively agree with these words. We know that we are more than the sum total of our genetic make-up. But our longing for greater wisdom and spirituality is stampeded by the materialist rush.

How can we make time this Lent for silence and solitude? Perhaps by turning off the television for a few evenings, or fighting the temptation to switch on the radio during a car journey. It is so important

Clive Calver

to create time for standing back and taking stock of our lives as Jesus did. Even when others clamoured for his attentions, he knew the significance of being alone. "At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The place were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them." (Luke IV. 42).

Entering "a wilderness" of our own can be transforming. It can also be painful. We may have to face tough issues such as bereavement, failure, broken relationships and insecurity. This Lent we may need to repent over past actions towards others, or adopt humility in current relationships. What ultimately matters, however, is what we do with these experiences. The promise of Jesus is that he walks along the difficult road with us. For it is not suffering that destroys people, it is suffering without meaning. Even positive questions like "why is there beauty in the world?" could become a scourge from which we gain no quick release. And yet Lent promises that the wilderness is not for ever.

If we can overcome our aversion to quietness and our uneasiness with being alone, we will discover that letting go of human securities in order to wrestle and search, will liberate us to discover more of our real identity and purposes. With the triumph of the Resurrection already on the horizon. God himself promises "I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." (Is 1L. 15, 16).

☐ *The Rev Clive Calver is the Director-General of the Evangelical Alliance UK.*

Church praises band of lay volunteers

AT LEAST six out of ten services in the Methodist church are conducted by local preachers and not ordained ministers, the church said yesterday. The church, which later this year celebrates the bicentenary of the creation of local preachers in 1796, yesterday praised its "band of dedicated and unpaid volunteers", which dates from the time of John Wesley and the beginnings of Methodism.

The Methodist church now has 12,612 local preachers — lay church members who volunteer to be trained as preachers — as well as the 3,459 ordained ministers. Women have been able to be local preachers for two centuries, although they could not be ordained as ministers until 1974.

THE TIMES

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Threat of summit clash over East Timor averted as two continents build economic bridges

Europe sidesteps rights issue to bolster Asia trade

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN BANGKOK

EUROPEAN Union leaders were last night moving away from a confrontation over human rights in an attempt to ensure that the first Asia-Europe summit meeting here ends in success.

John Major and other senior European leaders did not join efforts to strengthen the summit statement drafted by Thailand. They did not wish to prejudice their hopes of building new economic and strategic relationships between the two regions.

Fears of a walkout by President Suharto of Indonesia, if Portugal raised the vexed issue of conditions in Lisbon's former colony of East Timor, prompted the first meeting of leaders of the two countries since 1975, and avoided a clash that would have soured the historic gathering. Antonio Guterres, the Portuguese Prime Minister, approached Mr Suharto at dinner on Thursday night and offered to establish indirect diplomatic ties in return for the release of an East Timor rebel leader. Mr Suharto promised to think about it.

The desire for amity was expressed by Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, who declared that European leaders had come seeking co-operation rather than confrontation. "Although we come from different traditions, we are all attached to the universal values which belong to all humanity," he said in an opening address.

Lamberto Dini, the acting Prime Minister of Italy, which currently holds the six-month EU presidency, was slightly more direct, suggesting that both Asia and Europe were accountable to rules of the United Nations.

But the Asian countries had made clear in advance their reluctance to accept interference from Europe in their affairs. In his opening address, Banharn Silpa-archa, the Thai Prime Minister, noted that both Asia and Europe had taken "quite different development paths with standards and cultural values suited to their own circumstances".

Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, said in a meeting with Mr Banharn that the EU countries "might try to impose a European way of thought" on Asia. Thai officials said Mr Banharn shared Mr Li's view because Thailand regarded the summit as "one between equal partners with no imposition of one side's views on the other".

Last night, the Europeans appeared to have dropped any serious attempt to beef up the Thai statement which declares that the two regions will conduct their affairs "on the basis of non-interference in each other's internal affairs". Some had originally backed attempts to require the signatory countries to accept "internationally agreed principles and obligations".

British sources said Mr Major could live with the Thai wording because the statement also recognised the UN convention on human rights, which would allow Britain and other countries to raise issues of concern with offending countries.

In his opening speech to the summit yesterday, Mr Major stepped up his calls for reform of the UN, saying that it had to be put on a firm financial footing and that penalties on non-paying countries had to be tightened.

But as they tiptoed round issues such as Asian labour standards and abuses of workers' rights, the emphasis from both continents was on building a new business relationship between Europe, the oldest economic powerhouse, and East Asia, the newest.

A second Asia-Europe summit will be held in London in 1998 and South Korea has offered to host a third in 2000.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, with Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, left, and Li Peng of China at the start of the summit yesterday

Court removes Rao as head of political bribes investigation

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Indian supreme court yesterday removed control of a federal agency investigating a political bribery scandal from P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister.

The court, which criticised the Central Bureau of Investigation in January for dragging its heels over the corruption allegations, has emerged as the leading champion of clean government in a country accustomed to corruption at every level.

Yesterday's ruling gave the CBI absolute freedom to pursue its hunt for politicians involved in the scandal. Before, the agency was seen as a tool of the Prime Minister's Office, and there are indications that it had pursued its investigations selectively.

Meanwhile, the court ordered the imprisonment pending trial of ten senior politicians who allegedly took bribes. Although assured of bail, the public humiliation of so many powerful politicians has ensured that corruption will be a central issue in the general election in April or May. The men are accused of taking bribes from a millionaire businessman five or six years ago in return for favours.

They include L.K. Advani, 67, leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, and Devi Lal, an elderly former Deputy Prime Minister, as well as several ministers forced to resign in recent weeks. They are among 115 politicians and bureaucrats said to have taken money from Surendra Kumar Jain, who allegedly paid 650 million rupees (£21 million at 1991 exchange rates) in bribes.

The principal evidence is a diary kept by Mr Jain, containing the names or initials of people who supposedly took money from him and members of his family. The affair is known as the *hawala* scandal, after the word describing illegal foreign exchange transactions.

Mr Jain is said to have been one of the country's principal money-launderers and the CBI is examining whether he and his family handled vast amounts of cash for Muslim guerrillas fighting a separatist war in Kashmir.

Opposition leaders have accused Mr Rao of taking huge bribes. Even if, as expected, the CBI says the allegations are baseless, suspicions of corruption at the highest level of government will remain.

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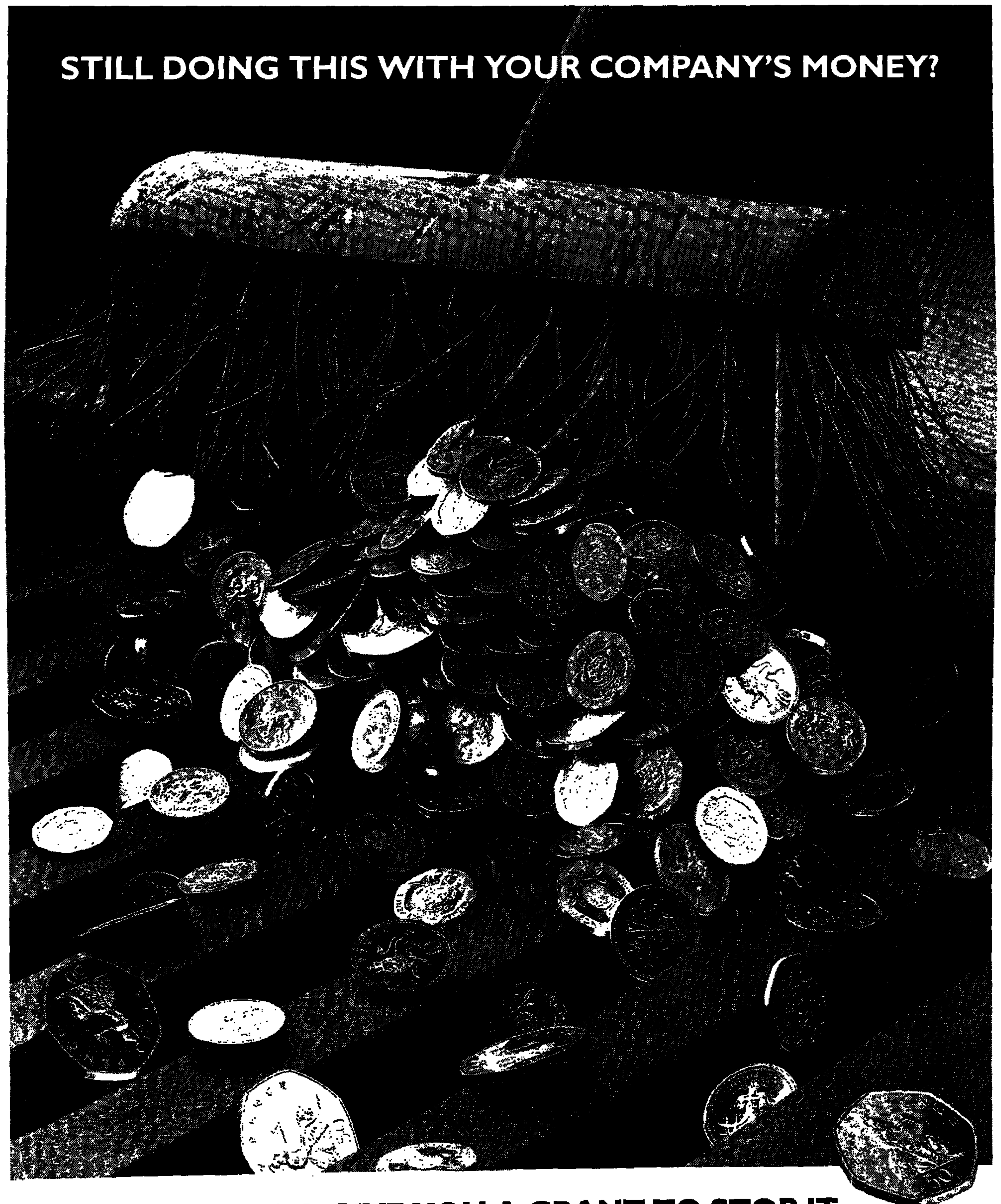
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'Honest John' poised to end Labor's 13-year reign in Australia

Poll signals defeat for Keating

By Roger Maynard in Sydney and Our Foreign Staff

AUSTRALIANS have turned on Paul Keating, their Prime Minister, and are poised to shun Labor in today's general election, ending the party's 13-year hold on power.

A poll published in the national daily, *The Australian*, showed Labor trailing by seven points, a deficit that would translate into a loss of 23 seats in the House of Representatives. Such an outcome would be a severe personal defeat for Mr Keating and a blow to his hopes of cutting ties with the monarchy and declaring a republic by 2000.

The Australian poll, by the Newspoll group, gave Labor only 40.5 per cent of the primary vote, with the Liberal-National Party coalition receiving 48 per cent. Under the preferential voting system, this would deliver John Howard's team a landslide victory with 53.5 per cent of the vote after preferences are distributed.

Pollsters say voters have deserted Labor in its heartland of New South Wales, where 13 seats are in doubt. The anti-Labor mood is similar in Queensland, where Labor could lose another eight seats.

"Honest John" Howard, 56, unloved but respected, fought a dour campaign for the Liberals in which he condemned Labor's handling of the economy and promised to curb the trade unionism which he says is stifling business.

Addressing a Canberra rally billed as Labor's call to arms, Mr Keating said: "We did more over each month of those three years than most coalition governments did in a term."

Australia needed a philosophy, a belief and a passion, Mr Keating said.

With characteristic caution, Mr Howard warned his followers not to be euphoric too early, and referred to an earlier opinion poll by the Roy Morgan company, which had the rivals sharing first place.

"This is tight," he said. "We have a volatile electorate, there are still many people who don't make up their minds until they enter the booths. I take nothing for granted."

However, Bob Hawke, the former Prime Minister and most successful of Labot leaders, was braced for defeat. "My heart says I hope Labor can win. My mind says there will be a change of government," said Mr Hawke, who was ousted by Mr Keating in a 1991 party coup.

Labor Party strategists fear they are trailing in key marginal seats. Even a modest swing against Keating would extinguish the political careers of some of Labor's brightest young talents.

Those who may be heading for the political wilderness include: Michael Lavarch, the Attorney-General, who only six months ago was being hailed as a future Prime Minister; Gary Johns, the Special Minister of State, and Robert Tickner, the Aboriginal Affairs Minister.

Today's vote covers not only the House of Representatives, but half the Senate. Voters will be confronted by a ballot paper up to 3ft long to accommodate the extraordinary number of individuals standing for election.

In New South Wales, for example, six Senate seats are being contested by 63 candidates. These in turn are split into 18 different groups and cover such diverse interests as The Reclaim Australia Group, the No Airport Noise movement and the Call to Australia party.

Even if he is victorious, Mr Howard faces a baptism of fire. Trade unions, sensing a conservative victory, have promised industrial "war" in support of new wage claims. Moreover, Labor could also frustrate a new government by siding with the left-wing Australian Democrats and Greens, who will probably hold the balance of power in the Senate.

Labor's campaign suffered another body blow on the eve of the election when the influential Business Council of Australia disputed a claim by Mr Keating that living standards had risen 1 per cent since Labor came to office. The council retorted that standards had, in fact, fallen by 13 per cent since 1981.

A Keating defeat would signal the end of one of the most dynamic yet controversial eras in Australian politics.

Under Mr Hawke's leadership, Labor established an accord with the trade unions, which kept a lid on wage demands and reduced strikes. With Mr Keating as Treasurer, Labor had a formidable duo in charge, guiding Australia through some of its most radical economic reforms, including the floating of the dollar and the deregulation of financial markets.

Voting is compulsory. At the last election nearly 500,000 of registered voters failed to do their democratic duty, and 20,000 were fined the equivalent of £12 each.

THE PARTIES

THE ISSUES

THE POLL

PAUL JOHN KEATING, 51
Australian Labor Party

☐ POLICY: A "true believer" of the Labor philosophy. He toppled Bob Hawke, under whom he served as Finance Minister, in a backroom coup in 1991 to become Prime Minister. Made strides in achieving reconciliation with Aborigines.

☐ ECONOMY: He deregulated financial markets, floated the dollar and turned Australia into a bustling Pacific Rim economy. Has kept a low-tax regime but underlying balance of payments deficit is up. At least 8 per cent are unemployed.

☐ MONARCHY: Of Irish descent, the Prime Minister has an abhorrence of the monarchy. He wants to ditch the Queen as the Head of State. Dreams of a republic by the year 2000, and has campaigned strongly to bring this vision into reality.

JOHN WINSTON HOWARD, 56
Liberal Party

☐ POLICY: "Honest" John Winston (named after Churchill) Howard is uncharismatic but trustworthy. Unkindly depicted by cartoonists as a quacking duck or hairy monkey. Pledges to take on the unions with Thatcher-style reforms.

☐ ECONOMY: The Leader of the Opposition is staunchly pro-business, especially favouring small business. He proposes tax rebates for families. Also waants a "safety net" minimum-wage scale for Australian blue-collar workers.

☐ MONARCHY: Mr Howard will slow down the process towards a republic by proposing a long (read tedious) people's convention. This will be made up of politicians and eminent citizens who will be asked to investigate the options.

TIM ANDREW FISCHER, 50
National Party

☐ POLICY: Mr Fischer is in coalition with the Liberals. If they win, he becomes Deputy Prime Minister. The old Country Party is big in the outback. Nearly quit politics after a car crash, but returned to Canberra to be Mr Howard's right hand.

☐ ECONOMY: His chief responsibility is foreign trade, which is crucial to Australia's future. Also responsible for mines and energy. Admired by his opponents, but will he be tough in ore and wool trade deals with big players like the Japanese?

☐ MONARCHY: *God Save the Queen* is the slogan in the outback. Support for the monarchy is staunchest among National Party electorates, especially Queensland. The Nationals also resist moves to rid the Australian flag of the Union Jack.

John Howard's Liberal/National coalition will face a rocky road even if it wins an outright majority in the House of Representatives, because the Australian Democrats and the Greens will hold the balance of power in the Senate. Labor could entice them to block initiatives proposed by Mr Howard and Mr Fischer.

Noa Ben-Artzi, granddaughter of the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, lights a candle on his tomb at Mount Herzl cemetery yesterday

Israel rejects offer of Hamas ceasefire

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

ISRAEL yesterday rejected a conditional offer of a ceasefire made by the leadership of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, which earlier this week killed 26 people and wounded more than 100 in three terrorist attacks.

In the offer, Hamas demanded the release of all its prisoners in Israeli jails and "an end to Israeli aggression against Palestinian civilians on conquered lands". The speed of the Israeli Cabinet's rejection of the deal, which included a temporary halt to suicide attacks until next Friday, was seen as likely to herald more violence.

One result of the attacks so far has been to reduce the lead of Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, in the opinion polls so that he is now running level with Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing challenger who has pledged to freeze large sections of the 1993 peace deal with the Palestinians if he wins the general election on May 29. Hamas threatened to resume military action if Israel failed to respond to the proposal after a week.

Capitalist given star treatment in Peking

From James Pringle
in Peking

CHINESE Communist Party officials joined astronomers and scientists last night to fête a businessman who was the first to own a Ferrari in China. At the gala occasion, an asteroid discovered during the heyday of Mao Tse-tung was named after Li Xiaohua.

Mr Li's recognition was in contrast to the practice in Mao's days, when peasants were regarded as the most honoured workers. There was no place for industrialists in the planned economy.

As Mr Li accepted the accolades at a five-star hotel in Peking, the People's Liberation Army sang patriotic songs such as *China's Star*. Rock singers also entertained the gathering.

The asteriod was discovered in 1964 by the Purple Mountain Observatory in Nanking. Last night, it was renamed "Li Xiaohua planet" in recognition of the philanthropist's "contributions to education, science and technology".

Mr Li, whose companay markets a "cure" for baldness, had until now been famous for paying £80,000 in 1993 to buy the first red Ferrari in China. His customised number plate is A00001.

Besides selling hair tonic, the 45-year-old entrepreneur, described by one Hong Kong magazine as the second-richest man in China, has interests in property, food processing, electrical appliances, plastics, tourism and entertainment. He is a success story in a new China that espouses ailing leader Deng Xioaping's dictum "to get rich is glorious".

At the China World Hotel last night, Mr Li said: "My family was very poor and I didn't have the amount of toys children have these days, but it was a joy to count the number of stars in the Milky Way."

This was an honour for Chinese all over the world, he said. His nomination was approved by the International Astronomical Union in America.

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Our City Editor on the fracas at the Stock Exchange

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WORKING WEEK 29

A designer who works to death

SPORT 46-52

Spectre of defeat opens Atherton to leading questions

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF EAGLE STAR
Page 29

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

Factories standstill fuels case for further rate cut

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

BRITISH manufacturing industry has stagnated for six months, putting pressure on jobs and prices and shortening the odds on another interest rate cut next week.

Manufacturing activity contracted fractionally last month and prices slumped to their lowest level for four years, according to the latest survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply, based on questionnaires sent to purchasing executives in 310 industrial companies.

The overall Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 49.8 per cent in February, from 50.3 per cent in January. A reading below 50 per cent signals a contraction in manufacturing activity. With demand generally weak, the prices index fell sharply, to 44.4 per cent, its lowest level since January 1992 and down from 49.1 per cent in January this year. This was the fourth successive month in which prices fell. Last month, more than a quarter of managers surveyed reported lower prices than a month earlier.

The employment index fell below the crucial 50 per cent level for the second month running, a sign that companies are shedding labour to cope with lower demand, and therefore output.

The chartered institute noted that February was the sixth successive month without any significant growth in manufacturing. Peter Thomson, its director-general, said that the sector is a hotchpotch of different conditions — firms producing goods for consumer markets are buoyant but manufacturers of capital equipment, such as plant and machinery, are stagnant, he said. Yesterday's purchasing managers' survey, the first key snapshot of the month, has added to the City's conviction that base rates will be cut, with many economists betting on a ¼-point move after next Thursday's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, promptly revised his forecast for growth this year down to 2 per cent, against the Treasury's forecast of 3 per cent. He said that growth in the first half of this year will be well below the economy's sustainable rate of growth and that inflation and base rates have much further to fall. "If Mr Clarke moves quickly he will meet little Bank of England resistance in cutting rates as low as 5 per cent," he said.

Don Smith, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said that the purchasing managers' survey had been more accurate than any other in predicting conditions in manufacturing industry. The drop in prices points to another fall in producer input prices this month — an indicator keenly watched by the Bank of England — and the survey in total "clearly strengthens the case for an imminent rate cut", he said.

British Government bonds soared yesterday on strengthening hopes of a rate cut here and abroad. The US National Purchasing Managers' Index published yesterday showed a disappointing bounce back from January when business was hit by winter blizzards, and the figures were taken on Wall Street as a sign that US rates may be cut again. In addition, the Tankan survey on the Japanese economy was weak enough to allay fears that Japanese interest rates may be on the way up.

A combination of apparently low inflation and sluggish growth in Britain, coupled with the prospect of rate cuts here and abroad, sent gilt futures prices soaring by 1½ points. Short sterling futures on the Liffe market rallied sharply, too, and are now pricing in another ¼-point cut in base rates.

City economists said that a rate cut next week is now such a foregone conclusion that it would be an opportunity missed if the authorities opted to keep rates unchanged.

'Modest recovery' in homes market

By Karen Zagor

THERE was more evidence of a fragile recovery in the housing market yesterday when the Nationwide Building Society reported a 0.9 per cent rise in its seasonally adjusted house price index in the year to February.

Nationwide said the rise was consistent with a modest recovery in the market. Paul Sanderson, head of research, said: "Prices seem to have bottomed out since last autumn and there has been a modest upward trend since."

This was borne out by news that TSB Bank's Affordability Index has reached its lowest level since 1978. TSB estimates that a typical buyer this year will spend £25.70 on mortgage payments out of every £100 in take-home pay, compared with £30 last year.

The Nationwide report, in isolation, was not particularly encouraging. The average house price in February was £51,256, an improvement on every month since August but below last year's peak of £52,180 in May.

The society, like most lenders, has been discounting mortgage rates and offering cash incentives to encourage people to buy. Michael Foot, head of banking supervision at the Bank of England, has told banks and building societies that thinner margins for personal mortgages may sow the seeds for trouble in the future.

The Bank of England said: "Lenders must take into account that somewhere along the line some people might not be able to repay their loans and they do need to bear this in mind when pricing products."

Another concern is that the surfeit of cashback and discount schemes may encourage too many people to take out unrealistic loans. The cash component can be substantial. Newcastle Building Society's 6 per cent rebate will pay up to £15,000, while Chelsea Building Society is offering a 5 per cent rebate, with a cap of £10,000.

MFI to invest £60m on store designs

By Marianne Curphey

MFI, mass-producer of flatpack furniture, is to spend £60 million over the next few years upgrading its network of stores to extend their appeal.

The move follows the success of a new store design called HomeWorks which has been tested at several outlets and involves rearranging displays to give them a more spacious feel.

John Randall, managing director, said existing stores felt too "enclosed" and the redesign was based on two-and-a-half years of research.

Sales in France between November and February increased 26 per cent on the previous year, and rose 50 per cent during the winter sale. UK retail sales between November and the end of February were up 2 per cent on the previous year, in spite of trading conditions described by Mr Randall as "very difficult".

Group sales for the second half of the year to February 28 were 5.5 per cent higher than for the same period in 1994-95, he added.

In recent years, the company has been attempting to lay to rest the image of its products as poorly-fitting and downmarket, and putting more emphasis on bedrooms and kitchens.

Originally known as the family firm Mullard Furniture Industries, MFI was floated in 1992 at 115p per share.

The HomeWorks concept appears to be paying off: those stores that have been converted already reported sales 12 per cent ahead of the rest of the chain during MFI's winter sale period in January and February this year.

The group will publish its full-year results in the first week of July. NatWest Securities said yesterday that it would not be upgrading its 1996 pre-tax profit forecast of £60 million.

The company's share price gained 6p, to 158p, on yesterday's news.

Leading article, page 23

GILL ALLEN

John Randall said displays would be arranged to give stores a more spacious feel

Young close to £2.4m payoff

By Martin Waller and Jon Ashworth

LORD YOUNG of Graffham, the former Cabinet minister who was ousted in November as chairman of Cable and Wireless, is close to agreeing a £2.4 million payoff.

The balance of the money will come from Lord Young's outstanding share options, and the deal is along the lines of that agreed with James Ross, the former chief executive, last week.

No formal statement has been made over a settlement, and a C&W spokesman said: "The position we're in is the same as it was ten days ago."

But Lord Young is expected shortly to accept the deal offered by his former employer. This would pay him just short of £120,000, or three months' salary, in compensation and other benefits worth another £45,000. He would be entitled to bonuses for the portion of the current financial year he has served worth another £200,000. His outstanding share options are worth another £2 million at today's prices.

Mr Ross agreed a payoff of almost £1.3 million, £1 million of which came from his executive share options.

Lord Young, who had no formal contract with the company, was unavailable for comment last night. He is thought to be planning to use his settlement to set up his own small merchant bank.

Meanwhile, Michael Lawrence, former chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, will receive less than £400,000 in compensation for loss of office, under the terms of an agreement hammered out yesterday. Mr Lawrence, was dismissed from the £240,000-a-year post in January.

Lloyds Chemists bids referred

By George Sivell

THE Department of Trade yesterday referred the UniChem bid for Lloyds Chemists to the Monopolies Commission and sought permission from Brussels to investigate the rival bid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical group. The announcements knocked 17p off Lloyds's shares to 465p. UniChem fell 3p to 243p.

John Taylor, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, said the UniChem bid was being referred because of "competition concerns in the wholesale and retail pharmaceutical markets. He said that the Gehe bid "raises competition concerns in distinct markets within the UK, in particular the wholesale and retail pharmaceutical markets".

Boots is currently market leader with 1,200 UK chemists' shops out of a total market of about 10,000. A victory by UniChem would give it 1,300 shops after adding in Lloyds's 924 outlets. Gehe has about 300 UK shops after acquiring AAH last year.

UniChem believed its bid attempt was hamstrung by the MMC referral but analysts said the decision to ask Brussels for a British examination of the bid indicated competition concerns at the possibility of a Gehe takeover.

Analysts said UniChem would have to make disposals in order to be allowed to take over Lloyds, a possibility hinted at in its offer document. The City believes the OFT is concerned more at erosion between wholesale and ret-ail sides of pharmaceuticals rather than a straightforward retail monopoly.

Tempus, page 30

WEEKEND MONEY

33
Anne Ashworth
on a clean pensions break

INVESTMENT

31
Stockbroking on the cheap. The best deals

ANNUITIES

32
The most important decision of your retirement

PENSIONS

34-35
Pensions guide part 1: questions answered

ART MARKET

38
What is it worth? How to get an object valued

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3752.7	(+25.1)
Yield	3.91%	
FT-SE A All share	1852.03	(+11.26)
Nikkei	20168.63	(+43.26)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5504.41	(+18.79)*
S&P Composite	641.44	(+1.01)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{1}{2}$%*	($6\frac{1}{4}$%)
Long Bond	$94\frac{21}{32}$*	(93[illegible])
Yield	6.40%*	(6.47%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	107[illegible]	($106\frac{7}{32}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5275*	(1.5321)
London:		
$	1.5275	(1.5329)
DM	2.2571	(2.2522)
FFr	7.7405	(7.7210)
SFr	1.8399	(1.8341)
Yen	161.38	(161.05)
£ Index	83.6	(83.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4784*	(1.4726)
FFr	5.0898*	(5.0489)
SFr	1.2050*	(1.2013)
Yen	105.67*	(105.22)
$ Index	95.6	(95.4)

Tokyo close Yen 105.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$16.90	($17.05)

GOLD

London close	$398.65	($400.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Memory loss

Shares in Memory Corporation plunged after the group reported a 1995 loss increased to £1.95 million from £1 million and said that 1996 revenues would be affected by a significant fall in the price of Memory products.
Page 28, Tempus 30

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TI 17.02.96

The killing of Michael Lawrence

MELVYN MARCKUS

The killing on January 4 of Michael Lawrence, former chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, was inevitably going to lead to an inquest. The inevitable grinds on and Sir Tom Arnold, the Tory chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, has enthusiastically donned the mantle of coroner.

It was originally thought that the Select Committee's perusal of the Stock Exchange's future role, along with the abrupt exit of Mr Lawrence, might have drawn to a close by now. Not so. Sir Tom and his colleagues are clearly warming to their task. John Kemp-Welch, chairman and now acting chief executive of the Stock Exchange, has already proved the subject of one grilling and appears destined to enjoy another. Diane Abbott (Labour), it may be recalled, put it to Mr Kemp-Welch that the Stock Exchange was run more "like a club than a business". Quentin Davies (Conservative) ventured that the Exchange was "undergoing something of an identity crisis". Mr Kemp-Welch politely rejected such allegations and was left to play his highest card by way of the revelation that the Stock Exchange has decided to conduct its own inquiry into the way it runs itself. Ian Plenderleith and Ian Salter, the Stock Exchange's deputy chairmen, are to sound out members on issues such as consultancy procedures and report within three months.

Mr Lawrence's written submission to the committee makes interesting reading, not least his version of the organisation he inherited two years ago. Permit me to precis a few bullet points.

☐ The full-time management team had no formal status in that there were no delegated powers to them as a group, and no formal minutes of management meetings went to the board.

☐ Most of the formal decision taking was under the control of practitioner committees, many of which (but not all) were chaired by non-executives.

☐ The upward accountability of the chair in these committees was orally to the board where the chair was a board member, or not at all.

Equally interesting is Lawrence's recommendation that the Stock Exchange should publish, whenever possible, the results of its investigations into controversial share price movements. As Mr Lawrence puts it: "The Exchange is usually in a position to have views as to whether there is a *prima facie* case for a full investigation by the DTI or other appropriate body ..." He adds, convincingly, that the market's reputation would be enhanced "if more openness was achieved".

In his verbal evidence to the committee on Wednesday, Mr Lawrence made it abundantly clear that he believed his demise was the result of a coup inspired by the City's major market-making firms, opposed to his plans to introduce an electronic "order matching" system of share trading. The Big Five rebels have long been perceived as BZW, Smith New Court, now absorbed by Merrill Lynch, Kleinwort Benson, SBC Warburg and UBS. In evidence, Mr Lawrence specifically named BZW, Smith New Court and SBC Warburg as major opponents of the reforms which threaten London's traditional "quote driven" style of trading.

In his submission, Mr Lawrence states: "As far as I am concerned, the reform programme I led had the support of the chairman of the exchange and of the board. As late as November 1995, the chairman assured me of his support for the trading reforms, and the board, despite lobbying, fully supported the proposals. I received no warning at any time that I did not enjoy their support although we were all aware of the opposition of certain market-makers." Asked if he would have retained his post if Mr Kemp-Welch had stood by him, Mr Lawrence retorted that he was "certain" this would have been so.

Mr Kemp-Welch has already been briefly quizzed on this matter.

Q: In the evidence we have received from Mr Lawrence he makes the point that he received no warning at any time that he did not enjoy the board's support. Does this surprise you or not?

Kemp-Welch: "I think Mr Lawrence was well aware of the concerns that lay amongst our membership and our constituencies and I really have nothing further to add than that."

Not that the perspective of Mark Potashnick, of Kleinwort Benson, should go unrecorded.

Potashnick: " ... It was a very good example of how we, as a membership, particularly at Kleinwort Benson, were losing confidence in the organisation which we felt should be representing us to a greater degree through this debate. So I think it was the sense we were not in control, although we were not looking to control the situation entirely ourselves. We felt that no one was in control other than the Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange would be dictating to the whole marketplace what was going to happen to the whole market."

The reality, as I reported in this column on January 6, is that an ultimatum was delivered to Mr Kemp-Welch by a delegation drawn from the Stock Exchange's senior appointments and remuneration committee shortly before Christmas. Committee members include Donald Brydon, deputy chief executive of BZW, Michael Marks, deputy chairman of Merrill Lynch International, and Nick Verey, of SBC Warburg. Other members include John Bond, chief executive of HSBC Holdings, and Mr Salter, of SGST Investment Advisers.

More grist for Sir Tom and his colleagues who are clearly considering whether to recommend that the Office of Fair Trading (a body that seldom requires much encouragement) should take a closer look at the Tower's affairs. Stand by, word has it, for evidence from the Treasury, reputed to be exceedingly well informed about the order matching/quote driven power-play.

Lawrence, incidentally, reached a compensation settlement of upwards of £300,000 with the Tower on Thursday.

The message from Sir Nicholas Redmayne, Kleinwort Benson's chief executive, was: "In our mind it is vital that the Stock Exchange gets the right sort of chap as the next chief executive and that chap has got to be, amongst other things, a diplomat, intelligent and a business man."

Was he implying that Mr Lawrence was not either or all of these? Sir Nicholas replied: "I am certainly implying that Mr Lawrence was not a diplomat, but a man cannot be everything. I realise that."

Hanson bids for stake in gas war

By Christine Buckley

HANSON'S energy division marked its entry into south-west England's competitive market — which will begin on April 29 — with a buy-now, pay-later offer.

Eastern Natural Gas, part of Eastern Electricity, the generating and distribution business owned by the soon-to-demerge Hanson Group, has offered to undercut British Gas tariffs by 20 per cent to 500,000 households in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset taking part in the experiment.

Meanwhile, Sweb Gas — the operation whose now-abandoned marketing campaign has come under fire from the Gas Consumers Council and is being investigated by Devon County Council — moved to appease its critics. Derek Lickorish, director of consumer service at the electricity parent Sweb, said yesterday that it had had productive meetings with the consumers council.

British Gas, which is expected to lose a large chunk of its market share, has still to announce a pricing strategy for the area. The company is allowed to offer differential rates to customers in the South West and those in the rest of the country, but there is speculation that the company cannot afford to implement significant price cuts.

Memory suffers larger loss

By Martin Barrow

MORE than £63 million was wiped from the stock market value of Memory Corporation after a warning that revenues would be hit by a sharp fall in prices for its computer memory products.

The biggest company on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM), Memory's stock market capitalisation peaked at £352 million, even though it has never made a profit and its 1995 sales were just £450,000. Its shares were backed heavily by private investors after its flotation in September last year.

But the shares have fallen sharply from a peak price of 595p amid growing concern about the company's ability to generate profits from its innovative computer memory technologies.

Yesterday, the share price plunged by 107p, to 225p, after the disclosure that the 1995 loss had increased to £1.95 million, from £1 million, and that 1996 revenues would be adversely affected by a significant fall in the price of memory products.

The downturn coincides with a crucial period in Memory's brief existence, when the company makes the transition from research and development to product development and manufacture.

Cameron McCall, the chief executive, said that having remained at relatively high and stable levels during most of 1995, prices began to fall in the final quarter and the downturn has gathered pace in the current year.

"It is still not possible to predict with any degree of certainty at this time whether the current market situation will continue through 1996," he said. The latest losses include a £267,000 writedown of stock acquired in 1995, to take into account the depressed market.

Memory Corp raised £5 million when it joined the Alternative Investment Market last year via a share placing to help to fund the development of its technology.

Alliances with both BTG and Sumitomo fuelled City enthusiasm for the shares. The company ended 1995 with £5.7 million in cash.

Tempus, page 30

RAOUL DIXON/NORTH NEWS & PICTURES

Go-Ahead's Martin Ballinger, right, managing director, and Chris Moyes, commercial director

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bus expansion drives Henlys to £25m

INTENSE competition between Britain's bus and coach operators and substantial expansion has helped Henlys, the motor trading group, to turn in a 57 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £25.3 million for the year to December 31. While profits in its smaller motor division slid on the back of a disappointing new car market, the bus and coach sector moved ahead 69 per cent.

The strength of the coach market was highlighted by the group: registrations increased 45 per cent to more than 1,000 vehicles and registrations in public service vehicles rose 30 per cent. Henlys, which also benefited from modification work required to make coaches more accessible to the disabled, reported a kick-in of £1.3 million from Northern Counties. It acquired Northern, a coach company, last year with a number of other acquisitions. The final dividend, due to be paid on April 10, is 8p. That makes the total 12p, up from 8.5p the previous year.

Tempus, page 30

Specialeyes in profit

SPECIALEYES, the 64-store optician chain, aims to develop further after reporting pre-tax profits of £312,000 before exceptional items for the year to November 25, against losses of £788,000 previously. An exceptional credit of £7.5 million, relating to VAT rebates, came after a change in tax guidelines. Turnover rose to £21.8 million, from £20.4 million, reflecting the new basis of VAT apportionment. A dividend is restored, with a final payment of 0.75p, from earnings per share up to 33.45p, including the VAT credit, from losses of 5.09p.

United's merger support

SHAREHOLDERS in United News & Media yesterday approved the group's proposed £3 billion merger with MAI. United said that it was delighted with the level of support, with 99 per cent of proxy votes received by the company in favour of the move. There was also no opposition to the merger plans in the extraordinary general meeting yesterday, which lasted only a few minutes. The merger now requires the support of shareholders in MAI, the media to finance group, before completion. The closing date for acceptances for MAI is March 5.

Ranger surges to $20m

HIGHER oil prices and increased production in the North Sea helped Ranger Oil, the Canadian oil exploration company listed in London, to raise earnings from US$6.1 million to $19.9 million last year. Included in the result is a gain of $17 million from the sale of a half share in a drilling rig, partially offset by write-offs of $14.8 million on unsuccessful exploration in Peru and Namibia. Ranger's oil and gas revenues increased by 26 per cent to $192 million after a 39 per cent increase in North Sea production.

Bid for Trencherwood

TRENCHERWOOD, the struggling construction company, has succumbed to an agreed bid worth £10.4 million from Wilson Bowden, a rival housebuilder. The offer was 8.87p for each ordinary share. David Dugdale, Trencherwood's chairman, said that refinancing in 1993 had secured the immediate future, but trading conditions had remained difficult and development had been further hindered by high borrowings. Banks have given irrevocable acceptances in respect of 35.2 per cent of Trencherwood's ordinary shares.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The battle of the forecourts

"By merging its European refining and marketing operations with the American giant Mobil, BP has shaken up the oil industry. But it won't end the price war that has been raging on Britain's forecourts . . ."

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.10	1.94
Austria Sch	16.89	15.39
Belgium Fr	49.40	45.10
Canada $	2.204	2.044
Cyprus Cyp£	0.753	0.698
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mkk	7.54	6.89
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	391.00	366.00
Hong Kong $	12.49	11.49
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.5000
Italy Lira	2487.00	2332.00
Japan Yen	175.90	159.90
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.681	2.451
New Zealand $	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	10.42	9.62
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	6.50	5.70
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.15
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	refer.	94318.0
USA $	1.629	1.489

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Hotel groups raise hopes for Belfast

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

TWO hotels are to be built in Belfast, creating 230 jobs and raising hopes that last year's upsurge in economic development in Northern Ireland will continue, in spite of the renewed IRA bombing campaign in mainland Britain.

Jurys Hotel Group, based in Dublin, plans a 190-bedroom hotel, the largest in Northern Ireland, on a site next to Belfast Opera House. The hotel, grant-aided by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, will cost £9.4 million and employ 80 staff.

In a separate announcement, Stakis, the Glasgow hotel and casino group, revealed plans for a £16.3 million hotel, conference and golf resort at Templepatrick, between the international airport, at Aldergrove, and Belfast.

Backed by a £4.3 million grant from the tourist board, the 130-room hotel and associated facilities are expected to provide up to 150 jobs.

Construction will take place on the Castle Upton Estate. Facilities will include a conference and banqueting centre seating 400 people, three floodlit tennis courts, a golf academy and a 32-room apartment hotel catering for long-stay visitors.

Next stop could be rail for Go-Ahead

By Martin Barrow

GO-AHEAD GROUP, the ambitious bus operator, is ready to join the bidders for local rail franchises.

The Newcastle company, with bus operations in the North East, London, Oxford and Brighton, is looking at areas offering synergies with existing bus services.

Go-Ahead has been in touch with potential rail partners, including management buyout teams, but could launch a lone bid for a rail network in one of its four core regions.

This would follow the lead taken by Stagecoach, a rival bus operator, which now runs trains in the South West.

Reporting a 63 per cent rise in half-year profits to £6.7 million to December 30, Go-Ahead said services in the North East had improved margins through further cost reductions.

Brighton and London enjoyed a better than expected summer and the pre-Christmas period was buoyant. The Oxford business had seen increased competition.

The interim dividend is lifted 16 per cent to 1.85p a share, payable on April 25, out of earnings up to 12.69p a share from 8.2p. The shares rose 10p to 303p.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

هكذا من الأصل

A WORKING WEEK FOR: HUSSEIN CHALAYAN

Bombed out even before the Valley of Death

With London Fashion Week in full swing, **Jon Ashworth** meets a young designer who refuses to compromise over control

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Hussein Chalayan has the glazed, bombed-out look of someone who has seen seen one flashbulb too many. He turns up for the interview with the mournful demeanour of a child whose favourite dog has just been run over by the woman next door. Or that of the top student who just wiped out on all his grades. His handshake is firm, but he appears downright miserable. "I'm very interested in death," he confides, pouting moodily across the table. "I used to bury clothes in my back garden."

But then one cannot be too harsh. Chalayan did not sleep a wink on Wednesday night in the rush to complete his new collection in time for his turn on the catwalk at London Fashion Week. As the models flitted into the spotlight on Thursday afternoon, Chalayan was ready by the exit, scanning for flaws. "There are moments of panic, where you have the wrong model for the wrong dress, or the garment is on the wrong way round. You end up sewing safety pins on. When you're in that situation, it's terrifying, but looking back on it, it's quite funny."

Once the applause died, Chalayan was dragged out for the interviews — 13 of them, back to back, as it turned out. Then there was the party, and the backslapping, and the, er, post-mortem. Now, the morning after, it is hardly surprising that he looks a little jaded. "I see it as a job," he mutters. "It's good to show your face; to show appreciation for people who have turned up." To the tourists strolling down the Cromwell Road, London Fashion Week is a couple of monstrous wedding-cake white marquees, tucked in the shadow of the Natural History Museum, and surrounded by television vans.

> ❛ I'm very into death — I used to bury clothes in my back garden ❜

Even without the press passes to get in, one word stands out: sponsorship. The slogan "sponsored by Vidal Sassoon" leaps out from the side of the tents. Lloyds Bank, Rolls-Royce and Maurice Lacroix have their names in lights. Renault Espace has provided a fleet of cars. Harrods has laid on the Harrods bus. Even the caged dinosaur at the entrance is brought to you "courtesy of Wallis". This is big business.

The Hussein Chalayan stand is in an upstairs corner, looking on to a table adorned with glasses of orange juice and the remains of a croissant. Men with strange haircuts and thick-rimmed glasses look on as Chalayan poses moodily on the floor, musing to himself about death and mortality. Buyers from as far afield as Hong Kong and Korea have flown in for the festivities.

Even Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, has called in: endorsing the £50,000 in sponsorship put up by the Department of Trade and Industry to help young designers to participate. Designer names like Amanda Wakeley and Katharine Hamnett are the visible end of a huge industry. British clothing and textiles companies employ 410,000 people and boast an annual production of £15.5 billion; £5.5 billion of which is in export sales. Exports of British designer merchandise contribute £220 million a year.

Japan has overtaken America as the UK's largest export market, according to newly-released figures from the British Knitting & Clothing Export Council. Apparel exports to countries outside the European Union increased from £745.6 million in 1994 to £898.3 million in 1995. Exports to Japan grew by 25 per cent to £125.9 million. South Korea, Russia and Kuwait showed significant gains.

Chalayan, 25, graduated two years ago from Central St Martins and caught the eye of Browns of South Morton Street, who put his graduation collection on display. A fertile imagination was given free reign. "It's not a *woman* he's designing for," whispers a starstruck aide. "It just happens the medium he translates through is fashion. He's buried clothes covered in iron filings in his garden. He could have been a fine artist, or a film maker."

The designer, it seems, is fascinated by technology — he once incorporated a row of flashing LED lights into a jacket. Fine, but who *wears* such things? Well, Björk, for one. The Icelandic singer, last seen beating up a television journalist at Bangkok airport, is a "huge" fan of the Chalayan look. So is Kylie Minogue, but fashionable Cher has so far resisted the designer's charms. "You need a strong personality," says the aide. "It's not just for young girls."

Chalayan's current success owes much to Absolut Vodka, which awarded him a £28,000 bursary last year, and is providing more or less open-ended sponsorship. It recently stumped up a new computer system, and telephone and fax machine. "Designing is what we do and not shuffling paper," sniffs Chalayan.

Working from cramped quarters in Endell Street, Covent Garden, the Chalayan team has spent the past two months completing the 50 outfits in the new Chalayan collection, Still Life. The last week swept by in a succession of late nights. "We've been working on the show since the end of December," says Chalayan, relaxing in a coffee bar run by the ubiquitous Leith's. "It's been the hardest season for us. We were all eating at the studio. It became a bit of a commune at the end. It was a hard show for us, but it went smoothly."

While Tomasz Starzewski and others were enjoying their turn on the catwalk, Chalayan and his team were engaged in a final race against time. "You're going until the last minute," he muses. "That's the frightening part of it. You work for months, and the whole thing is over in 20 minutes." Designing, Chalayan insists, is not about cutting pieces of cloth to order. It is about creating contexts; symbolising ideas. So what about the clothes-burying incident? Chalayan explains that he wrote a story, and wanted his clothes to go through the same thing — to attain a life of their own. "In my fictional narrative, a group of dancers have magnetised clothes. They are ridiculed by people who throw iron filings at them, then they are *kidnapped, killed and buried*." Not a side-splitting read, then? Chalayan shakes his head. "I'm very interested in death, I think, and there's always an aspect of that in my clothes." The garments were later dug up and cleaned.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

The morning-after look: after months of preparation and last-minute panic, the 20-minute show has come and gone — plus 13 interviews and a party

Electric jackets and the like are strictly for the catwalk. Chalayan appears horrified by the prospect that someone might actually buy them. "Imagine trying to make 100 light jackets?" The new collection owes less to technology, and more to the art deco period — a subject to which he warms. "The media of that period was very manipulative. Religion and the media. The manipulation of the masses.

"I used the Art Deco cinematic influence in the show. It's like a metaphor. You start wearing it all the time." He starts mumbling about golden fangs, and emblems for 1930s films. "That time, was very beautiful, but very ugly behind. Up to the 1950s, everyone looked the same, whereas now, everyone is more themselves. It is more about a certain feel — 'Still Life', as in a still *from* a life, or still as in dead".

Chalayan's models emerged on to the catwalk on Thursday by way of a revolving platform, and this was all part of the theme. "Mannequins," says Chalayan. "Static. Revolving." Does he consider himself an artist? "I'm not anything," he insists. "Basically, it's just an evolution of ideas. I just see myself as myself."

Opinions about Chalayan are divided. Some hail him as one of Britain's sharpest up-and-coming designers, a name to watch. Others can't stand him. "I find his look really aggressive," says one observer. "All those skinny, skinny girls." Whatever, he clearly has some original ideas.

Chalayan was born in Nicosia in 1970, to Turkish Cypriot parents, four years before Turkish paratroopers descended on the island. The ensuing conflict has coloured his life. Chalayan was in England at the time — he went to school in Highgate, north London, and his father remains here. His mother lives in northern Cyprus, but comes to his shows. "A lot of people have a very biased opinion about Cyprus," he says. "If you don't live there, you don't really understand. We're not Turkish. We're Turkish Cypriots. Had Turkey not come in, we would have been wiped out."

Chalayan is already mulling over designs for his next collection before the next UK show in October. He travels to Paris later this month, and will work on completing the current round of orders, before the cycle begins again.

So what does Chalayan do to unwind? A visit to the London Dungeon or the Chamber of Horrors? Perhaps Death Row in America? "He loves the cinema," croons his assistant. "He loves going out for meals and trying different types of food. He went to Japan one-and-a-half years ago and had a great time."

And for the future? Chalayan hopes to continue building up turnover and sales without being forced into any big deals that would remove the element of control. A London businessman, whose identity is not disclosed, provides advice on cash flow and other financial matters. As one of the team puts it: "He helps us through the Valley of Death period when you've got all the orders and have to put it all together."

Chalayan is happy to leave the accounts to others. Does he hope to become a Karl Lagerfeld or Bruce Oldfield, with designs in every window? Chalayan shakes his head. "I would like to be quite exclusive. We have to try and strike a balance and not grow too fast. It's not about selling to every Tom, Dick or Harry. There is a certain image, and we want to preserve that."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Peer's political salon shows genius of a design pioneer

Joanna Pitman on the William Kent house that is now home to Eagle Star

This house "in its time ... has been a centre of political power, the scene of high ambition". So wrote Sir Denis Mountain in 1984 in the preface to *A House in Town*, published by B. T. Batsford. He might have added that, since 1947, it has also been the West End office of Eagle Star, the insurance group, of which he was then chairman. The house is 22 Arlington Street — next door to the Ritz and fronting on to Green Park — a fine mansion designed by William Kent in 1740 and occupied over the centuries by a succession of grandees.

When Eagle Star bought the house for £250,000, it was in severe disrepair and had failed to find a private buyer. The firm had an eye to redeveloping the valuable site, and No 22's days appeared to be numbered. The house has, however, survived, outliving intrusive redevelopment proposals of the 1960s, and then, in the 1970s, finally undergoing lavish refurbishment that returned it to its original decorative splendour.

John Mills, surveyor in the rebuilding and redecoration, says that the house, "after many vicissitudes, is now several decades into its third century and is alive and well". He adds: "Alive because, although the restoration was in many ways its own reward, what has been produced is no mere museum. The house provides an incomparable venue for business and social functions."

In 1740, Henry Pelham, the future Prime Minister, bought the site of 22 Arlington Street, a fashionable area considered "absolutely the ministerial street". The *New Review of London*, in 1728, noted "one of the most beautiful situations in Europe, for health, convenience and beauty; the front of the street is in the midst of the hurry and splendour of the town; and the back is in the quiet simplicity of the country".

To build a house fit for this site, Pelham commissioned William Kent, pioneer of neo-Palladianism and an instigator of the Gothic Revival. Kent was also a book illustrator, and a designer of gardens, furniture, interior decoration and silverware, and traces of his many spheres of artistic endeavour remain at No 22. Ceilings in principal rooms consist of great gilded honeycombs of lozenges and octagons containing painted mythological figures. The magnificent salon, probably designed in the last year of Kent's life, is in the view of David Walkin, the art historian, one of the finest domestic interiors in London.

The Great Room, rehung with crimson damask as in 1754

Kent was a pioneer in his concern to integrate design, decoration and furnishing. The walls and seating decorated with crimson damask in the Great Room, overlooking the park, are testimony to the impact of his conceptions.

Pelham did not enjoy his house long. On the eve of the general election of 1754, he caught a chill from walking in the park, and died a few days later. A succession of distinguished residents followed him at No 22, including Lord Gower and Dukes of Rutland, Beaufort and Hamilton. The final private residents, the Guest family, held it for three generations before its sale in 1947.

Ivor Guest, created Viscount Wimborne, was made the first president of the National Liberal Party, in 1931, and the house became an important political meeting place, as well as being the venue for private chamber concerts of the Quartet Society, organised by Lady Wimborne. The house was, perhaps, at its grandest in the 1930s, and the Quartet Society played out its swan-song as a private palace. During the Second World War, the house became a packing centre for the Red Cross.

Today, as well as being a magnificent office, and occasional concert hall, for Eagle Star, the refurbished No 22 serves as a monument to the genius of William Kent.

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STOCK MARKET

PHILIP PANGALOS

Hopes on interest rates and bids buoy the bulls

SHARES ended the week on a positive note as renewed hopes of lower interest rates combined with a rally by the gilts market and a persistent bid buzz, helping to drive equities sharply higher.

Senior traders expect further gains for the equity market next week, with renewed talk around the Square Mile of a big bid in the pipeline.

Favourite takeover targets include Yorkshire Electricity, where there is talk of a bid from one of the big US power utilities, possibly as early as Monday, after reports that Bear Stearns, the US securities house, had been recently picking up shares. **Yorkshire** shares surged 39½p to 793½p.

Bid talk also surrounded **Lasmo**, up 3p to 187p, **Ladbroke**, ½p softer at 186p, **Willis Corroon**, 3p firmer at 152p, and among banks, **Standard Chartered**, 6p higher at 640p, and **Royal Bank of Scotland**, up 5p to 557p.

The latest share rally was sparked by a weak purchasing managers' index and revived speculation of a near-term cut in domestic interest rates after next week's monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Strong bond markets saw gilts surge £1¾.

An erratic start on Wall Street, with a roller-coaster Dow Jones industrial average rising nearly 30 points before tumbling nearly 50 points and then back into mildly positive territory, unsettled afternoon trading in London.

The FT-SE 100 index failed to hold on to a one-time 36.1-point advance, closing up 25.1 points at 3,752.7, giving a gain of 12.4 points on the week. Volume reached 803.2 million shares.

Most of the market may have been celebrating healthy rises yesterday, but the drinks sector suffered a bit of a hangover after bearish noises from analysts in the wake of a gloomy wines and spirits trade conference on Thursday.

Analysts said the annual seminar by Impact, the spirits publishing group, painted a gloomy picture and reminded investors that the industry remains tough, with price rises seen as virtually impossible and volumes remaining slack. Merrill Lynch has reiterated its sell recommendation on **Guinness**, unchanged at 459p, while effectively advising a switch into **Grand Metropolitan**, up 3p to 437p, which is seen as "a safer bet".

Merrill remains cautious on **Allied Domecq**, down 6p to 511p, saying the shares are "too high if you don't expect any bid or demerger". One analyst said a bid or demerger is seen as unlikely, adding: "The probability of a bid or demerger is far less than the probability of Sir Christopher Hogg [chairman-designate of Allied] reshaping the business".

The bid battle for **Lloyds Chemists**, down 24p to 459p, came under threat after competition concerns prompted the DTI to refer both the UniChem and Gehe offers to the competition authorities. The UniChem bid has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, while the European Commission has been asked to refer the offer from Germany's Gehe back to the UK. The MMC must report by June 26. **UniChem**, 3p softer at 243p, has temporarily withdrawn from the bid battle.

Elsewhere, it was the turn of water utilities to take centre stage, with upbeat noises emerging from a utilities conference in the US and a positive review from Cazenove, understood to favour **Yorkshire**, up 10p to 632p, **Southern**, 11p higher at 673p, and **South West**, 8p firmer to 498p. **United Utilities** gained 19p to 599p after reports of a trade in one million shares 5p above the market price.

British Aerospace surged to 903p after follow-through buying in the wake of Thursday's results, though the shares slipped back to close 21p higher at 891p, on volume of 4.89 million shares.

Analysts said benefits of reduced tax charge are not fully reflected in the share price, adding that BAe that would not dive head first into new Airbus development or European integration without enhanced shareholder value. Elsewhere in a firm sector, **Alvis**, the defence equipment manufacturer, gained 12p to 157p.

Memory Corporation was the day's biggest casualty, with shares in the AIM-listed company tumbling after it accompanied increased losses with a profits warning. Shares in the computer products company dived 107p to 225p, giving a hefty loss of 179p this week.

An upbeat trading statement saw **MFI Furniture**, Britain's biggest furniture manufacturer and retailer, add 6p to 158p after broker recommendations. **BICC** rose 15p to 306p on news that M&G Group has built up a 10.04 per cent stake.

A recommendation from Merrill Lynch helped Pearson to recover 12p to 696p, but David S Smith dipped 4p to 305p, unsettled by a Kleinwort Benson sell recommendation.

Hopes that lower interest may boost the beleaguered housing market helped **George Wimpey** to add 6p to 144p, **Redrow** 17p to 149p, **RMC** 9p to £10.37 and **Travis Perkins** 9p to 383p.

Frost Group, the petrol retailer, lost 6p to 121p, depressed by fears of an intensified petrol price war after BP and Mobil's petrol station joint venture.

GILT-EDGED: Government stocks staged a healthy recovery, with gilts squeezed up to £1¾ higher as strong German bunds and US treasuries combined with renewed talk of lower interest rates after soft PMI data.

The June series of the long gilt future surged 47 ticks to £107⁵⁄₃₂, on volume of 32,000 contracts traded. Five-year issues ended about £¾ higher, while gains stretched to more than £1¾ for the ultra-longs. Index-linked climbed by about £¾.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Technology shares tumbled on Wall Street but the market generally stayed ahead, with the Dow Jones industrial average 18.79 points higher at midday at 5,504.41.

Uncertainty cut Allied Domecq shares by 6p

Spargo Consulting, the computer services group, lost 9p to 189p on a provision-driven fall in annual pre-tax profits to £902,000 (£1.21 million). The dividend rises to 4p (3.6p) and Spargo said current trading and prospects are buoyant. Analysts forecast a bounce in this year's profits to £1.5 million-£1.7 million.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Trafalgar House	44¾p	+6¾p	Kvaerner bid talks
Yorkshire Electricity	793½p	+50½p	US bid speculation
British Aerospace	891p	+26p	Results please City
Lasmo	187p	+5½p	Bid speculation
Nottingham Group	125p	+17p	Wins sports equipment contract
ICI	907p	+25p	Profit upgradings
Memory Corporation	225p	-179p	Profits warning
Lloyds Chemists	459p	-32p	Bids referred to authorities
Vosper Thornycroft	819p	-57p	Fails to win Royal Navy contract

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5504.41 (+18.79)
S&P Composite	641.44 (+1.01)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20168.63 (+43.26)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11194.94 (+69.26)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	516.59 (+3.37)

Sydney:

AO	2313.0 (+23.0)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2501.22 (+27.67)

Singapore:

Straits	2421.43 (-17.08)

Brussels:

General	8890.09 (+65.15)

Paris:

CAC-40	2017.19 (+26.42)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	748.70 (+8.60)

London:

FT 30	2775.5 (+19.1)
FT 100	3752.7 (+25.1)
FT-SE Mid 250	4236.4 (+21.4)
FT-SE-A 350	1876.0 (+11.9)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1590.91 (+15.91)
FT A All-Share	1852.03 (+11.26)
FT Non Financials	1956.63 (+12.04)
FT Fixed Interest	112.01 (+0.19)
FT Govt Secs	93.56 (+0.51)
Bargains	33532
SEAQ Volume	803.2m
USM (Datastrm)	206.48 (+0.75)
US$	1.5282 (-0.0030)
German Mark	2.2558 (+0.0057)
Exchange Index	83.6 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1931
£:SDR	1.0437
RPI	150.2 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.3 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	509	...
Ballynatray	5½	...
Clubhaus (75)	6	...
Clubhaus Wts	3¼	...
Dmatek	67	...
Ex-Lands Props	12½	...
Ex-Lands Wts	8½	...
Freepages (12)	15½	+ ½
Nthrn Ptrlm Wts	8	...
Optical Care (8)	70	...
Revelation Plcc	105	...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	50	...
Shire Pharms (175)	202	- 3
SkyePharma B Wts	8	...
Streamline (180)	183	- 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ashtead n/p (152)	11	...
Br Borneo n/p (310)	124	+ 2
Farnl Fn Ut n/p (540)	72	+ 4½
Headlam n/p (185)	31	- 1
IAF n/p (10)	1½	...
Innovative T n/p (70)	33	...
Lookers n/p (125)	2½	...
Persimmon n/p (155)	23	+ ½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Alvis	157p (+12p)
Pilco	242p (+17p)
Chiroscience	256p (+17p)
BICC	306p (+15p)
Treatt	338p (+16p)
Telspec	853p (+40p)
CPL Aromas	420p (+17p)
Go-Ahead	305p (+12p)
Hays	399p (+14p)
Aus New Z	329p (+10p)
Henlys	589p (+16p)
Bodycote	479p (+13p)
Tibbet & Britn	478p (+15p)
AB Food	406p (+10p)
Provident	878p (+20p)
Lloyds Abbey	524p (+11p)
Br Aerospace	891p (+21p)

FALLS:

Memory Corp	225p (-107p)
Lloyds Chem	459p (-24p)
Vosper Thorny	819p (-13p)
ADT	953p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

OFT's bitter pill

GEHE'S bid for AAH was a pushover compared with this marathon. The German company is now obliged to go ahead with its increased cash offer for Lloyds Chemists in the full knowledge that it may end up referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, should the EC Commission accede to the DTI's request that it remain under British jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, shareholders are none the wiser, but the price of Lloyds has slipped back only slightly. That is more a reflection of the time value of money for the duration of an MMC referral than genuine fears that the bidders will be told to hop off by the MMC.

A referral was always a possibility — the bid for McCarthy Pharmaceuticals suffered the same fate. The profitable business of selling drugs tends to run up against public policy questions. This particular Director-General of Fair Trading appears to be taking a more consumerist approach than his predecessor, but that is hardly necessary. The Department of Health could easily lay claim to a sufficient financial interest in drug distribution to justify a referral of the bids.

That said, it is difficult to identify why the bids as a whole need to be referred. Of the 12,000 chemists in Britain, 8,000 are still independent. The MMC has never been called in to investigate issues of dominance or local market share regarding the relentless expansion of Boots the Chemist. Vertical integration is a more thorny issue, but local concentration could have been resolved by undertakings to sell warehouses or depots. In the end, Lloyds will be sold and its shareholders will just have to remain patient.

Vosper Thornycroft

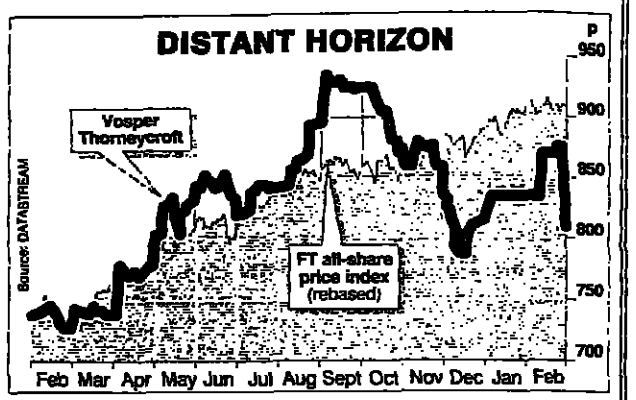
VOSPER Thornycroft's chances of winning the contract to build the new-generation Horizon frigate are sinking fast. Vosper this week suffered a bitter blow when it lost the competition to build the Royal Navy's final three Type 23 frigates to GEC's Yarrow yard. With GEC already flying the British flag in the Anglo/-French/Italian super-frigate, Vosper's Southampton yard is relegated to small-ship supplier to the Royal Navy and overseas peers.

Serco's victory in a second contest, for a £180 million contract to operate the fleet of Royal Navy harbour support vessels, was another damper on VSEL's effort to develop its naval support activities.

However, this is not the end of the creek, and nor are paddles in short supply. Experience in training foreign crews to operate its ships makes Vosper a front runner for the up-coming Royal Navy training contract and offers a chance for the fleet maintenance contract, too.

Vosper is Britain's leading warship exporter. It has built itself a niche as a specialist builder of minehunters and patrol craft for the RN and for export. It has a flawless five-year record of profit growth, and £100 million of spare cash for acquisitions.

Vosper shares are on a prospective p/e of around 18. That looks pricey, but, with a service contract under its belt, the company could look attractive to a bidder.



Henlys

BRITAIN'S roads are being choked by bus and coach companies fighting for a limited supply of passengers, but the battle is not hurting the cash flow of businesses such as Henlys.

The motor group is looking at a gift horse with the vigorous coach market and it is one that has proved able to shield the company from overexposure to the UK car market, which chugs along in the slow lane, handicapped by weak consumer demand.

Henlys has invested its improved profits over the past couple of years in buses, buying Northern Counties last year. The company has come a long way since its losses of the early 1990s and its escape, in 1992, from a takeover by Cowie Group. It intends to broaden further its geographical base in buses, a move that should yield good returns. Vigorous competition is keeping demand high. Meanwhile the requirement to make buses accessible to the disabled calls for large-scale body building.

In cars, Henlys is moving further to mitigate its distribution dependence on the main four manufacturers and should consolidate further its shift in this direction with MCS, the South East network acquired last year.

Memory Corp

FEW will have fond recollections of Memory Corporation's £5 million share placing at 420p in October. The shares were launched on the AIM well above £5, but have tumbled since and yesterday lost about £1 in value. Who would dare offer a firm view on the company, valued yesterday at 225p a share?

Memory's supporters reckon the shares are more than a biotech-style flutter. The company makes good defective computer memory chips with its own proprietary technology. The technology is proven, say its supporters, but Memory is still incurring start-up and development costs, although it has signed trading agreements with several companies, including Sumitomo.

However good Memory's gadget, it is still a creature of the computer industry and the company yesterday explained that it was suffering from a collapse in the price of memory chips. The Microsoft *Windows 95* launch failed to live up to expectations and manufacturers who expected a boom in sales as PC users upgraded their kit for *Windows 95*, were left with surplus stock.

Memory reckons that the margin advantage of its product remains, but absolute margins have fallen with the slump in demand. What this proves is that, for all its wizardry, Memory is still selling a commodity product. Doubtless, demand will pick up, but, at this stage, profit predictions are guesswork.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	877-876	May	999 SLR
May	904-903	Jul	unq
Jul	930-928	Sep	—
Sep	948-947	Dec	—
Dec	965-964		
Mar	986-985	Volume:	8528

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1985-1978	Nov	1680-1670
May	1800-1799	Jan	1655-1645
Jul	1725-1724	Mar	unq
Sep	1696-1695	Volume:	3418

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	314.2-09.3
Spot: 397.3		Mar	310.2-04.8
May	376.5-75.7	May	307.2-02.3
Aug	358.0-55.9	Aug	unq
Oct	323.0-19.3	Volume:	1095

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 29

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	103.29	132.70	120.91
(+/-)	-0.78	+0.69	-0.82
Eng/Wales:	103.24	133.30	120.74
(+/-)	-0.78	+1.44	-0.70
(%)	-1.0	+33.0	n/c
Scotland:	109.28	131.10	121.50
(+/-)	-0.03	-1.37	-1.44
(%)	+4.0	+42.0	+12.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.60	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.60	-0.20
Brent 15 day (May)	16.90	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	19.25	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.50	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 186 (+3)	O: 188 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	173 (-11)	176 (-12)
Non EEC IH Mar	166 (-1)	168 (-2)
Non EEC IH Apr	164 (-1)	166 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	104 (n/c)	106 (n/c)
Naphtha	171 (-1)	173 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	168.75-69.00	Jun	150.50-50.75
Apr	159.00-59.25	Jul	149.50-49.75
May	153.50-53.75	Vol:	18536

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	17.61-17.62	Jul	16.19-16.23
May	16.88-16.90	Aug	16.01 BID
Jun	16.52 SLR	Vol:	24923

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	116.95	Mar	108.20
May	119.05	May	109.20
Jul	121.00	Sep	106.50
Sep	110.45	Nov	108.50
Nov	111.75	Jan	110.35
Volume:	441	Volume:	20

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	183.0	186.3
May	unq	199.0
Volume:		51

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 109.50-110.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 96	1400	1390	1394
Apr 96	1410	1391	1397
Jul 96	1295	1275	1275
Oct 96	1325	1320	1320
Vol: 404 lots		Open interest:	4691

Index 1357 -7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2553.5-2554.5	2511.0-2513.0	1749750
Lead ($/tonne)	765.00-765.50	762.50-763.00	215725
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1035.0-1036.0	1053.5-1054.0	712225
Tin ($/tonne)	6080.0-6085.0	6155.0-6160.0	22725
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1586.0-1589.0	1619.0-1619.5	1234650
Nickel ($/tonne)	7785.0-7790.0	7895.0-7900.0	90342

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	500	24	33	43	9	20½	24
(*510)	550	5½	12	22	41	53½	55½
Argyll	280	22½	29	31½	2½	10	13
(*298)	300	9½	17	20½	9	20	22½
ASDA	100	7½	10½	13	2½	4	6
(*104½)	110	2½	5½	8½	7½	9	11
Boots	550	52½	61	66	1	9	13½
(*596½)	600	16½	28	36	14½	28½	34
Br Airways	500	22½	33	42	8½	20	24
(*510)	550	3½	11½	20	41	49½	53½
BP	500	50½	58	63½	1	5½	10
(*546)	550	14	25	33	14½	22½	28
Br Steel	180	9½	14	16	4½	11½	13½
(*183½)	200	2½	6	7½	17½	25	26
C & W	420	38½	48	56½	4½	12½	15½
(*452)	460	13	25½	34½	19	29½	33½
CU	600	17	32½	41	20½	29	39
(*612½)	650	3½	14	22	60	63½	71
ICI	900	21½	43	53	30	40½	53
(*907½)	950	5½	23	32	67	73	82½
Kingfshr	500	27½	36½	46	11½	20	25½
(*518½)	550	5	14½	23½	44½	50	54
Land Sec	600	23	31	35½	6	19½	23
(*613)	650	3	8	14	37½	54	55½
M & S	420	17½	24½	31	6	15	18
(*428½)	460	2	8	13½	32	40	42
Nat West	650	53	72½	81	5	13½	22
(*693)	700	21½	42½	54½	22½	33	43
Sainsbury	360	22	27½	33	3½	11½	14½
(*375½)	390	6	11½	19	18	27½	30½
Shell	850	17	26	36½	27½	33½	41½
(*852)	900	2*	9	17	69½	71½	75
Smkl Bch	650	56½	68	78	2	11	16½
(*696½)	700	21	36½	47½	16½	28½	36
Storehse	300	22	31	36	3	9	12
(*317½)	330	6½	15	20½	16½	23	26½
Trafalgar	45	4½	5½	6	3½	6	6
(*45)	50	1	3½	4	6½	9	9
Unilever	1200	35	47	67	26	37	43½
(*1210)	1250	12	25½	43½	62	69½	73½
Zeneca	1250	38	74	94½	33½	53½	65
(*1266½)	1300	19	50½	71	65	82	92
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420	30½	39½	48	8	17	21
(*436½)	460	10½	20	28½	28½	37½	41½
Ladbroke	180	15½	23½	24½	11½	15½	18
(*186)	200	8	14	16	23½	27	29½
Utd Bisc	220	19	23½	27½	6½	10	12½
(*234½)	240	8½	14	18	17½	20½	22½

March 1, 1996 Tot: 44221 Call: 27367 Put: 16854 FT-SE Call: 6476 Put: 5961

*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	460	36	45	51½	1½	7½	12
(*490½)	500	10	20½	28½	15½	24	29½
Thames W	500	44½	52	55	2	11½	17
(*538½)	550	11	20½	27	18½	36	39½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	550	28½	40	48	15½	27½	32½
(*571)	600	9	19½	26½	48½	57	61
BTR	300	28	31	33½	3	6	9
(*327)	330	7	13½	17½	16½	19½	23½
Br Aero	850	59½	83½	100	19	31½	39½
(*891½)	900	31	58	73½	42½	54½	62½
Br Telcm	360	24	31½	33½	5½	13	16
(*374)	390	8	15½	18	20½	29	31½
Cadbury	550	20½	35	42½	23	29½	35½
(*555)	600	6½	16	23	60	63	67
Guinness	420	41½	47½	52	4½	9	13
(*458)	460	12½	24	29½	21½	26	30½
GEC	360	22	29	33½	7½	16	19
(*370½)	390	7½	14	19	23½	32½	35½
Hanson	180	12½	15½	19½	4	7	10½
(*190)	200	4	6½	11	15½	18½	22
LASMO	180	18	23	26½	8½	11	12
(*187)	200	9½	14	17½	20	21½	22½
Lucas	180	14	19	22	5½	8½	12½
(*188)	200	4½	10	12½	16½	19½	23½
Pilkngtn	210	13½	19	—	7	12	—
(*213½)	229	5½	10	—	18	23	—
Prudential	420	29	40	46	12	18½	24
(*443)	460	9½	20½	27	34½	40	45½
Redland	420	28½	34½	40½	16	22	26
(*435½)	460	10	16½	25	40½	45½	49
R-Royce	200	14	20½	24	7	10½	13
(*208½)	220	6½	11½	15	18½	22	24
Tesco	260	17	21½	25	8	11	15
(*270)	280	6½	12	16	19½	22	26
Vodafone	220	22½	28½	34	6	11	14
(*235)	240	11	17½	23½	14½	20	23½
Williams	330	19	23	26	9	11	14½
(*341½)	360	4½	9½	13	28½	29½	32½

FT-SE INDEX (*3752)

	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900
Calls						
Mar	112½	70	35	12½	3	1
Apr	123½	89½	59½	37	21	12
May	146	114	84½	60	41	26
Jun	165½	132½	104½	80½	59½	42
Dec	—	222	—	173	—	128½
Puts						
Mar	6½	14½	30½	61	105	156
Apr	29½	44½	65	92½	127	167½
May	46½	64½	84½	111½	142½	178½
Jun	61½	79	100	126	154½	188
Dec	—	139	—	187½	—	243

Series		Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	550	31	40	50	6	17½	26½
(*581)	600	2½	17½	27	37½	44½	53½
Amstrad	200	18½	28	34½	2	9	12
(*218)	220	5½	17	24	9½	18½	21
Barclays	750	32	46½	58½	7	23	34
(*781½)	800	3	23	34	39½	50½	60½
Blue Circ	330	23½	28½	36	1	12	16
(*351½)	360	5	12½	21	12½	27½	31½
Br Gas	240	6	12	14½	5	14½	17
(*240½)	260	0½	4½	7½	19½	28½	30½
Dixons	460	12½	31½	40	7	19	27
(*466½)	500	0½	14	22	34	42	49½
Forte	343	7½	13½	17	2	4	7
(*348)	373	0	3½	5	25	25	26
Tarmac	120	4	9	12½	3½	9	11½
(*120)	130	1	5½	8½	10½	15½	17½
Hillsdwn	160	13½	15	16	0½	5½	8½
(*172½)	180	1½	4½	6	8½	17½	19½
Lonrho	180	16½	23½	27	0½	3½	6
(*195½)	200	3½	12	16	7	11½	14
Sears	90	6½	8	9½	0½	3	4
(*95½)	100	1	3	4½	5	8½	9½
Thorn	1600	47	95	119½	16	42	69½
(*1623½)	1700	9	48	71	79	96½	123
Tomkins	260	10½	19½	24	2½	8	13½
(*267)	280	2	9½	14	14	18½	24½
Lloyds TSB	322	11½	23½	—	4½	11½	—
(*328½)	352	1	11½	—	24	28	—
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	850	53½	70	84	9	21	33½
(*898½)	900	20	41½	56½	31½	43½	57½
HSBC	1050	50½	75	95	29½	47	62
(*1084)	1100	23	50½	70½	56	72	88
Reuter	700	25	43½	60	23	33½	44
(*705)	750	8	22	38½	57	64	72½
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	23½	33½	41½	8	16	23
(*383½)	390	7½	19½	27	24½	32	39
Series		Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Fisons	260	5	5	—	0½	0½	—
(*265)	280	0	0	—	15	18½	—
Series		May			May		
Eastrn Gp	950	37½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	4	—	—	25	—	—
Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	25	39	43	2½	11½	18
(*487½)	500	3½	17	22½	21	32½	39
Scot Pwr	360	11½	23	29	3½	9½	16½
(*366)	390	1	9	14½	24	26½	34

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 69511	Mar 96	3735.0	3770.0	3731.0	3754.0	15758
	Jun 96	3737.0	3772.0	3737.0	3757.0	1958
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3696	Mar 96	4225.0	4238.0	4225.0	4235.0	731
	Jun 96	4240.0	4255.0	4240.0	4252.0	731
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 364061	Mar 96	93.93	93.95	93.92	93.94	8894
	Jun 96	94.04	94.09	94.02	94.07	24863
	Sep 96	93.92	94.03	93.91	94.00	16251
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96				94.74	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1116624	Mar 96	96.70	96.70	96.66	96.69	26587
	Jun 96	96.74	96.82	96.73	96.79	40011
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 155346	Mar 96	107-03	107-30	107-02	107-29	57479
	Jun 96	106-14	107-07	106-12	107-05	32085
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.94	119.96	119.68	119.86	757
	Jun 96	118.30	118.57	118.22	118.49	4246
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 274814	Mar 96	97.32	97.95	97.28	97.81	197063
	Jun 96	96.50	97.10	96.48	96.99	44226
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 23912	Mar 96	95.38	95.38	95.34	95.35	672
	Jun 96	95.44	95.44	95.43	95.45	472
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 61062	Mar 96	98.31	98.32	98.27	98.30	1588
	Jun 96	98.23	98.25	98.20	98.23	3337
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 56404	Mar 96	110.55	110.91	110.35	110.68	43665
	Jun 96	109.80	110.46	109.90	110.28	9846

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6¼

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 6 Week fixed: 6⅛

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6³⁄₁₆ : 3 mth 5¹⁵⁄₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 5³¹⁄₃₂ ; 3 mth: 5²⁹⁄₃₂ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	5³¹⁄₃₂-5²⁷⁄₃₂	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¾	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⁷⁄₃₂-6³⁄₁₆	6⁵⁄₃₂-6⅛	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6³⁄₃₂-6¹⁄₃₂
Interbank:	6⁷⁄₃₂-6⁵⁄₃₂	6⁵⁄₃₂-6³⁄₃₂	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆

Overnight: open 6¼, close 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6¹⁄₁₆	6	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⁷⁄₃₂-6⁵⁄₃₂	6⅛-6³⁄₃₂	6¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₃₂	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6³⁄₃₂-6¹⁄₁₆
Dollar CDs:	5.24	n/a	5.16	5.16	5.23
Building Society CDs:	6⁵⁄₃₂-6¹⁄₈	6³⁄₃₂-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₃₂	6¹⁄₃₂-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₃₂

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £3,828m allotted: £800m; Bids: £98.535% received: 48%: Last week: £98.51% received: 16%; Avge rate: £5.8748% last wk £5.9280%: Next week: £800m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⁵⁄₁₆-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5-4
Deutschemark:	3½-3⅜	3½-3⅜	3½-3⅜	3½-3⅜	4-3
French Franc:	4⁵⁄₁₆-3¹⁵⁄₁₆	4¼-4	4⅜-4¼	4⅝-4½	4½-3½
Swiss Franc:	1⅜-1¹⁄₁₆	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1¹¹⁄₁₆-1⁹⁄₁₆	2-1
Yen:	½-¼	⁹⁄₁₆-⅜	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	⅝-½	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $399.40-399.70 Close: $398.40-398.90 High: $400.60-401.10 Low: $397.00-397.50 AM: $400.30 PM: $398.35

Krugerrand: $397.75-399.75 (£260.25-262.25)

Platinum: $412.75 (£270.10) **Silver:** $5.50 (£3.555) **Palladium:** $137.00 (£89.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 1	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5247-2.5310	2.5247-2.5280	½-⅜pr	1½-1⅜pr
Brussels	46.35-46.48	46.37-46.47	14-11pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.7090-8.7400	8.7090-8.7310	1½-1⅛pr	4-3pr
Dublin	0.9701-0.9732	0.9702-0.9727	9-13pr	21-27pr
Frankfurt	2.2553-2.2609	2.2556-2.2587	⅝-½pr	1⅝-1½pr
Lisbon	233.70-234.46	233.84-234.46	¼-½ds	½-1½ds
Madrid	189.70-190.20	189.79-190.07	42-51ds	110-127ds
Milan	2382.5-2391.8	2387.9-2391.8	7-9ds	21-23ds
Montreal	2.0880-2.0940	2.0910-2.0940	0.21-0.13pr	0.32-0.21pr
New York	1.5268-1.5288	1.5270-1.5280	0.14-0.12pr	0.31-0.28pr
Oslo	9.8180-9.8410	9.8210-9.8360	1⅛-⅞pr	2⅜-1⅞pr
Paris	7.7300-7.7500	7.7340-7.7470	1⅜-1⅛pr	3½-3⅛pr
Stockholm	10.307-10.359	10.336-10.359	¼-⅜ds	¼-⅜ds
Tokyo	161.01-161.65	161.25-161.51	1⅛-⅞pr	2⅝-2⅜pr
Vienna	15.859-15.904	15.861-15.888	⅝-⅜pr	1½-1pr
Zurich	1.8385-1.8441	1.8385-1.8413	¾-⅝pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3123-1.3131
Austria	10.39-10.40
Belgium (Com)	30.37-30.39
Canada	1.3682-1.3687
Denmark	5.7073-5.7126
France	5.0647-5.0662
Germany	1.4780-1.4785
Hong Kong	7.7308-7.7318
Ireland	1.5713-1.5733
Italy	1562.75-1563.25
Japan	105.50-105.55
Malaysia	2.5452-2.5462
Netherlands	1.6545-1.6550
Norway	6.4330-6.4350
Portugal	153.23-153.33
Singapore	1.4118-1.4128
Spain	124.24-124.33
Sweden	6.7566-6.7641
Switzerland	1.2060-1.2070

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5275-1.5301
Australia dollar	2.0039-2.0066
Bahrain dinar	0.5710-0.5830
Brazil real*	1.4938-1.4980
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7030-0.7130
Finland markka	6.8950-7.0110
Greece drachma	366.50-373.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.8052-11.8145
India rupee	52.28-53.24
Indonesia rupiah	3510.00-3578.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4525-0.4625
Malaysia ringgit	3.8873-3.8914
New Zealand dollar	2.3626-2.3674
Pakistan rupee	52.50 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5125-5.6365
Singapore dollar	2.1561-2.1591
S Africa rand (com)	5.9160-6.0180
U A E dirham	5.5600-5.6840

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	616	Land Secs	321
ASDA Gp	15,000	Legal & Gn	683
Abbey Ntl	5,200	Lloyds TSB	3,900
Allied Dom	3,000	Marks Spr	8,600
Argos	594	NatWst Bk	2,600
Argyll Gp	4,700	Nat Grid	8,000
AB Foods	4,900	Nat Power	2,300
BAA	2,200	P & O	1,000
BAT Inds	2,600	Pearson	693
BOC	831	Pilkington	4,800
BP	8,800	PowerGen	1,400
BSkyB	1,500	Prudential	4,800
BTR	5,500	REXAM	2,500
BT	12,000	RMC	1,400
Bk of Scot	374	RTZ	3,800
Barclays	5,600	Rank Org	3,400
Bass	1,900	Reckitt Col	2,200
Blue Circle	1,100	Redland	2,200
Boots	3,300	Reed Intl	1,600
BAe	4,900	Rentokil	2,900
BA	2,800	Reuters	1,400
Brit Gas	9,000	Rolls Royce	6,800
Brit Steel	4,000	Royal Ins	1,400
Burmah Cstl	587	Ryl Bk Scot	4,400
Burton	4,100	Sainsbury	6,100
Cable Wire	5,900	Schroders	5
Cadbury	2,900	Scot & New	826
Carlton Cms	2,500	Scot Power	777
Cm Union	3,000	Svrn Trent	1,300
Cookson	7,100	Shell Trans	3,200
Courtaulds	1,100	Siebe	583
Dixons	1,300	SmKl Bch	4,800
Enterpr Oil	231	Smith Nph	3,400
For & Col IT	763	Smiths Inds	331
GKN	445	Sthern Elec	325
GRE	949	Std Chand	4,300
GUS	3,900	Sun Allnce	5,100
Gen Acc	536	TI Gp	508
Gen Elec	4,300	Tate & Lyle	375
Glaxo Well	7,300	Tesco	11,000
Granada	1,400	Thames W	410
Grand Met	4,600	Thrn EMI	359
Greenalls	967	Tomkins	4,300
Guinness	2,400	Unilever	1,800
HSBC	1,300	United Utils	3,700
Hanson	11,000	Vodafone	9,500
ICI	1,200	Whitbread	432
Kingfisher	4,000	Wlms Hld	392
LASMO	5,400	Wolseley	947
Ladbroke	1,900	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

	Mar 1 midday	Feb 29 close
AMP Inc	42⅞	42⅝
AMR Corp	88⅛	87⅛
AT & T	63	63⅜
Abbott Labs	42⅛	41⅛
Advanced Micro	18⅛	19⅜
Aetna Life	75⅛	75⅜
Ahmanson (HF)	22⅜	22⅝
Air Prod & Chem	53⅝	53⅛
AirTouch Comm	31⅛	31
Alberto-Culver B	35⅛	35⅜
Albertson's	37⅛	37
Alcan Alumnm	30⅛	30⅛
Alco Standard	47⅛	47⅛
Allied Signal	56⅛	55⅜
Alum Co of Am	56⅜	56⅛
Amax Gold Inc	7⅛	7⅜
Amerada Hess	52	51⅛
Amer Brands	45⅛	45⅜
Amer El Power	42⅛	42⅛
Amer Express	46⅛	46
Amer Genl Corp	36⅜	36⅛
Amer Home Pr	98⅛	98⅛
Amer Intl	97⅛	96⅜
Amer Stores	28⅜	29⅜
Amer Standard	29⅜	28⅛
Ameritech	57⅛	57⅜
Amoco	69	69⅛
Anheuser-Busch	68⅜	67⅜
Apple Computer	26⅛	27⅜
Archer Daniels	19⅜	19⅜
Armco	5⅜	5⅜
Armstrng Wrld	58⅜	58⅜
Asarco	31⅜	29⅛
Ashland Oil	36⅛	36⅜
Atl Richfield	110⅛	109⅛
Auto Data Pro	39⅜	38⅛
Avery Dennison	53⅛	53⅜
Avon Products	81⅜	80⅜
Baker Hughes	26⅛	26⅜
Baltim Gas & El	28⅜	28⅛
Banc One	35⅛	35⅜
BankAmerica	73⅛	71⅛
Bank of NY	52⅜	51⅛
Bankers Tr NY	65	64⅜
Barnett Banks	63⅜	62⅛
Bausch & Lomb	39	38⅛
Baxter Intl	45⅛	45⅜
Bectn Dickrsn	83⅛	82
Bell Atlantic	65⅜	66⅛
Bell Industries	21⅜	21⅛
BellSouth	39⅛	39⅛
Black & Decker	34⅜	33⅛
Block (H&R)	35	35⅜
Boeing	79⅛	81⅜
Boise Cascade	35⅜	35⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	85⅜	85⅜
Browning Ferris	29	29⅜
Brunswick	22⅜	22⅛
Burlington Nthn	79⅜	80
CBI Inds	32⅛	32⅜
CNA Financial	116	116⅛
CPC Intl	70⅜	69⅛
CSX	44⅜	44⅛
Campbell Soup	61⅛	61⅛
Can Pacific	19⅛	19⅛
Carolina Pwr	30⅜	30⅜
Caterpillar	66⅜	66⅛
Central & SW	27⅜	27⅛
Champion Intl	40⅛	40
Chase Manhat	75⅛	74⅛
Chemical Bk	73⅛	71⅛
Chevron Corp	54⅜	55⅜
Chrysler	56⅜	56⅜
Chubb Corp	97⅜	97⅛
Cigna Corp	119⅜	118⅛
Citicorp	79	78
Clorox	84⅛	84⅛
Coastal Corp	36⅛	36⅜
Coca Cola	81⅜	80⅜
Colgate-Palmolive	81⅛	78⅛
Columbia Gas	43	43⅛
ColumbiaHCA	55⅜	54⅛
Compaq Comp	43	50⅜
Comp Ass Int	67⅛	66⅛
Conagra	42⅛	42⅜
Conrail	71⅜	72⅛
Cons Edison	32⅜	32⅜
Cons Nat Gas	43⅛	43
Cooper Inds	37⅛	38⅛
Corestates	43⅜	43
Corning Inc	32⅜	32⅛
Crown Cork	47⅜	47⅛
Dana Corp	30⅛	30⅜
Dayton Hudson	75⅛	74⅛
Deere	39⅛	39⅜
Delta Air Lines	78⅜	78
Deluxe Corp	32⅛	32⅜
Digital Equip	70	72
Dillard Dept St	31⅜	31⅛
Disney (Walt)	65⅛	65⅜
Dominion Res	40	39⅜
Donelley (RR)	36⅜	36
Dover Corp	45⅜	44⅛
Dow Chemical	80⅜	80⅛
Dow Jones	39	39
Dresser	28⅛	28⅜
Duke Power	49⅜	48⅛
Dun & Brdstreet	62⅜	63⅛
Du Pont	78	78⅜
Eastman Chem	71⅛	72

	Mar 1 midday	Feb 29 close
Eastman Kodak	71⅛	71⅛
Eaton Corp	57⅜	57⅜
Edison Intl	17⅜	17⅜
Emerson Elec	78⅛	77⅜
Engelhard Corp	20⅜	20⅜
Enron Corp	37	36⅜
Entergy	28⅜	28⅜
Ethyl Corp	11	10⅜
Exxon	79⅜	79⅜
FMC Corp	72⅜	73
FPL Group	44⅜	44⅜
Federal Express	73⅜	74
Fed Nat Mtge	32⅜	31⅜
First Interstate	164	163⅜
First Union Rlty	7⅛	7⅜
Fleet Finl Grp	41⅜	41⅜
Fluor Corp	68	67⅜
Ford Motor	31⅛	31⅛
GTE Corp	42⅜	42⅜
Gannett	67⅛	68
Gap Inc Del	53⅜	53⅜
Gen Dynamics	59	59⅜
Gen Electric	76⅜	75⅜
Gen Mills	58	57⅜
Gen Motors	51⅛	51⅜
Gen Reinsurance	144⅜	143⅜
Gen Signal	36⅜	36⅜
Genuine Parts	42⅜	42⅜
Georgia Pac	64⅜	63⅜
Gillette	54⅜	54⅜
Glaxo Welc ADR	27⅜	27⅜
Goodrich (BF)	76⅛	76⅜
Goodyear Tire	48⅜	47⅜
Grace (W&R)	68⅜	69
Grt Atl Pac Tea	22⅛	22⅜
Great West Fin	22⅜	22⅜
Halliburton	54⅜	54⅜
Harcourt General	43⅜	43⅜
Heinz (HJ)	34⅛	34
Hercules	62	60
Hershey Foods	75⅛	75⅜
Hewlett Packard	97	100⅜
Hilton Hotels	95	93⅜
Home Depot	43⅜	43⅜
Homestake Mng	19⅜	19⅜
Honeywell	51⅜	53
Household Ind	67⅜	67⅜
Houston Inds	22⅜	22⅜
Humana	25⅜	24⅜
ITT Corp	60⅛	60⅜
Illinois Tool	66⅛	65⅜
Illinova	28⅜	28⅜
INCO	32⅜	31⅜
Ingersoll Rand	40⅛	40⅜
Inland Steel	24⅛	24⅜
Intel Corp	56⅜	58¹¹⁄₁₆
IBM	120⅜	122⅜
Intl Flav & Fr	50	50⅜
Intl Paper	35⅜	35⅜
James River Va	25⅜	26⅜
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	94⅜	93⅜
Kellogg	76⅜	75⅜
Kerr-McGee	59⅜	59⅜
Kimberly-Clark	76⅜	76⅜
Kmart	7⅛	7
Knight-Ridder	68⅜	69⅜
Lilly (Eli)	61⅜	60⅜
Limited Inc	17⅜	17⅜
Lincoln Nat	54⅜	55
Litton	50⅜	50⅜
Liz Claiborne	31⅜	31⅜
Lockheed Martin	75⅜	76⅜
Louisiana Pac	23⅜	23⅜
MCI Comm	29⅜	29⅜
Marriott Int	49⅜	49⅜
Marsh & McLnn	96⅜	97⅜
Masco Corp	28⅜	28⅜
May Dept St	47⅜	46⅜
Maytag Corp	19⅜	19⅜
McDonalds	50⅜	50
McDonnell D	89	88⅜
McGraw Hill	88⅜	87⅜
Mead Corp	50⅜	50
Medtronic	58	57⅜
Mellon Bk	56⅜	55⅜
Melville Corp	32⅜	31⅜
Merck Inc	66⅜	66⅜
Merrill Lynch	57⅜	57⅜
Microsoft	96⅜	98¹¹⁄₁₆
Minnesota Mine	65⅜	65⅜
Mobil Corp	109⅜	109⅜
Monsanto	135⅜	134⅜
Morgan (JP)	82⅜	81⅜
Motorola Inc	59⅜	54⅜
Natl Semi	15⅜	15⅜
Natl Service Ind	34⅜	34⅜
Navistar Intl	10⅜	10⅜
NY Times A	27	27⅜
Newmont Mng	55⅜	56⅜
Niag Mohawk	7⅜	7⅜
Nike B	65⅜	64⅜
NL Industries	13⅜	13⅜
Noram Energy	8⅜	9
Nordstrom	47⅜	45⅜
Norfolk Sthrn	80⅜	81⅜
Nthn State Pwr	49⅜	49⅜
Norwest Corp	36⅜	36⅜
Nynex Corp	51⅜	51⅜
Occidental Pet	23⅜	23
Ohio Edison	23⅜	23⅜

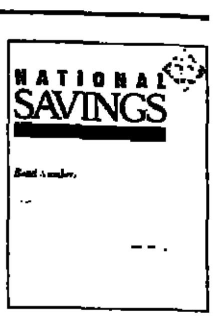
	Mar 1 midday	Feb 29 close
Oracle	50⅜	52
Oryx Energy Co	13	12⅜
Owens Corning	40⅜	40⅜
PHH Corp	50⅜	50⅜
PPG Industries	40⅜	40⅜
PNC Bank	30⅜	30⅜
PP&L Res	24⅜	24⅜
Paccar Inc	47	47⅜
Pacificorp	20⅜	20⅜
Pac Enterprises	26⅜	26⅜
Pac Gas & Elect	25⅜	25⅜
Pac Telesis	28⅜	28⅜
Pall Corp	26⅜	27⅜
Panhandle East	28⅜	28⅜
Parker Hannifin	34⅜	35⅜
Peco Energy	28⅜	28⅜
Penney (JC)	48⅜	47⅜
Pennzoil	37⅜	38⅜
Pepsico	64	63⅜
Pfizer	66⅜	65⅜
Pharm & Upjhn	42⅜	41⅜
Phelps Dodge	62	61⅜
Philip Morris	99⅜	99
Phillips Pet	35	35
Pitney Bowes	48⅜	48⅜
Polaroid	43⅜	44
PriceCostco	17¹¹⁄₁₆	17⅜
Procter & Gmbl	84⅜	82
Providian	46	46⅜
Pub Serv E & G	28	28⅜
Quaker Oats	35	34⅜
Ralston Purina	67⅜	67
Raychem Corp	65⅜	64⅜
Raytheon	50⅜	50⅜
Reebok Intl	28	26⅜
Reynolds Metals	51⅜	51⅜
Rockwell Intl	56⅜	57
Rohm & Haas	70⅜	69⅜
Royal Dutch	136⅜	137⅜
Rubbermaid	28	28⅜
SBC Comms	54⅜	54⅜
Safeco Corp	36⅜	36⅜
St Paul's Cos	57⅜	56⅜
Salomon Inc	38⅜	38⅜
Sara Lee Corp	32⅜	32⅜
Schering Plough	58⅜	56⅜
Schlumberger	72⅜	72⅜
Seagram	34⅜	34⅜
Sears Roebuck	46⅜	45⅜
Shell Trans	79⅜	78⅜
Sherwin Wllms	42⅜	42⅜
Skyline Corp	23⅜	22⅜
Snap-On-Tools	44⅜	44⅜
Southern Co	24⅜	23⅜
Sprint Corp	42⅜	43
Stanley Works	55⅜	56⅜
Sun Company	28⅜	29⅜
Sun Microsys	49¹¹⁄₁₆	52⅜
Suntrust	72⅜	71⅜
Supervalu	32⅜	32⅜
Sysco Corp	33⅜	32⅜
TRW Inc	86⅜	86⅜
TCC Inds	2⅜	2⅜
Tandem Comp	9⅜	9⅜
Tandy Corp	43⅜	43⅜
Teledyne	28⅜	28⅜
Temple Inland	40⅜	40⅜
Tenneco	56	55⅜
Texaco	78⅜	79⅜
Texas Inst	49⅜	49⅜
Texas Utilities	40⅜	40⅜
Textron	79⅜	78⅜
Time Warner	43⅜	42⅜
Times-Mirror A	34⅜	34
Timken	44⅜	45
Torchmark	46⅜	46⅜
Toys R Us	23⅜	23⅜
Transamerica	75⅜	75⅜
Travelers	68⅜	66⅜
Tribune	66⅜	66⅜
Tyco Labs	36	36⅜
UST Inc	34⅜	35⅜
UAL	180⅜	178⅜
US Inds	19⅜	19⅜
USX Marathon	18⅜	18⅜
Unicom	32⅜	32
Unilever NV	133⅜	134⅜
Union Camp	45⅜	46⅜
Union Carbide	44⅜	45
Union Pacific	66⅜	66
Unisys Corp	6⅜	6⅜
USAIR Group	16⅜	16⅜
USF&G Corp	15⅜	15
US Life	30⅜	30⅜
United Tech	108	107⅜
Unocal Corp	30⅜	30
VF Corp	53⅜	53⅜
WMX Tech	28⅜	28⅜
Wal-Mart Stores	21⅜	21⅜
Warner-Lambert	100	98⅜
Wells Fargo	247⅜	246⅜
Westinghouse El	18⅜	18⅜
Weyerhaeuser	42⅜	42⅜
Whirlpool	55	55⅜
Whitman	23⅜	23⅜
Winn Dixie	34⅜	34⅜
Woolworth	12⅜	12
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58⅜	58⅜
Xerox	130⅜	130⅜
Yellow Corp	15⅜	15⅜

هكذا من الأصل

LIFE INCOME 32
The serious business of annuities

WEEKEND MONEY

BOND BONANZA 41
Who is the latest Ernie millionaire?



Shop around to save on share deals

Marianne Curphey says competition means savings of £25-£30 on a single transaction

Private investors who want to buy and sell shares can save hundreds of pounds in commission by shopping around to obtain the best dealing rates.

Increased competition in the market means there is as much as £25-£30 difference in the price dealing firms charge for a single transaction worth £5,000.

There are also special offers for investors who buy and sell frequently — typically more than 12-25 times a year.

If you are confident about making your own investment decisions you can minimise your costs by choosing a cut-price share-dealing service.

Such dealers run "execution only" services. They buy and sell shares on your instructions without giving any investment advice, although even then there are wide variations in the prices charged and facilities offered.

City Deal Service, one such broker, this week cut its commission rates for deals of up to £5,000 to £15 from £20, plus a joining fee of £5. This compares with Midland Stockbrokers' (part of Midland Bank) charge of 1 per cent, or £50 for deals worth £5,000.

City Deal Service says it is able to confirm your trade while you are on the telephone, and it can offer a cheap service because of investments in new technology.

Midland, which is the fourth largest share dealer for private investors in the United Kingdom, defends its rates by pointing to the added value it offers: selected larger branches have ShareShops with television screens showing the latest share prices and company news. There is also a free monthly stockbrokers' newsletter and a quarterly bulletin.

Michael Savory, director, said: "Some dealers are cheaper but our brokers can give advice and get you a good price immediately.

"There is no point in saving a few pounds if you lose more than that because the share price has moved before your order has been put through."

ProShare, an organisation which promotes wider share ownership, estimates that individuals currently hold £205 billion directly in United Kingdom shares. This compares with £126 billion in 1990, and £215 billion held in building societies.

During the 1980s, the Government was keen to encourage individuals to buy into its privatisation programme and millions of people took up the offer. The flotation of British Gas, for example, attracted four million individual subscribers.

DEALS LEAGUE

Name	No of deals per day
NatWest	**2,600**
Barclays	**2,200**
Lloyds	**2,000**
Midland	**1,800**
ShareLink	**1,500**
Capel Cure Myers	**1,200**
City Deal Service	**1,000**
Wise Speke	**900**

THE RIGHT FIRM FOR YOU

IF YOU want help in choosing stocks, an advisory broker will charge to assess your need for income or growth and your attitude to risk, and make share recommendations. A further service is offered by discretionary brokers, who require a minimum sum to start a portfolio — typically between £10,000 and £50,000 — and will charge a fee of about 0.75 or 1 per cent a year of the market value of your investments to manage it. They may buy and sell shares without consulting you.

There is also the collective option, in the form of investment clubs. These started in America during the depression of the 1930s. In the UK over the past ten years, they have grown and blossomed into social gatherings at which members make small regular contributions and share investment decisions. There are more than 1,200 clubs in Britain, with 15,000 individual members. Being part of a pool can cut the cost of stockbrokers' fees because most clubs use execution-only services. ProShare (0171-600 0984) has a guide for £25 on how to start up a club.

SIMPLE OR DELUXE SERVICE?

THE more sophisticated investors among us have a wide range of options including freephone numbers, market advice, and longer opening hours.

Fidelity, for example, claims to hunt around for the best deal while you are on the phone making your order. The Share Centre's service is cheaper, but orders are processed only three times a day.

If you intend to trade in shares frequently, most brokers dealing in execution-only orders suggest you open a nominee account in which you are the beneficial, but not the legal, owner of the shares purchased.

Though this speeds up the sales process, it means you may not be able to vote at company meetings or claim perks, and you may have to pay extra if you want your broker to send out annual reports or collect your dividends.

Some brokers, like Fidelty, offer margin trading, which means that you can use part of your share portfolio as collateral for a loan. Bear in mind that you will be charged for this, typically 2-4 per cent above base rate depending on your broker.

Others do not offer margin trading, saying it is alien to British share buying. These include YorkSHARE, the Yorkshire Building Society's share service, and Midland. Not all brokers will deal in the more unusual stocks.

Moneyfacts has a fax-back service on share dealing, available by dialling 0336 400245 on your fax machine.

THE COST OF DEALING

Broker	telephone dealing charges			Joining fee	No of clients
	min**	£1,000	£5,000		
Share Centre	£7.50	£10	£50	0	100,000
ShareLink	£10	£10	£43	0	600,000
Fidelity	£25/£15*	£25/£15*	£50/£30*	0	35,000
YorkSHARE	£9	£11	£40	£5	130,000
City Deal Service	£9	£9	£15	£5	135,000
Midland	£10	£10	£50	0	200,000
NatWest	£20	£20	£50	0	1 million

*frequent dealer service. **commission

BY POST

WHILE it is easy to buy and sell privatisation stocks or the shares of large, blue-chip UK companies through branches of high street banks, acquiring corporate bonds, gilts, warrants, investment trusts and unit trusts needs careful choice of broker.

The cheapest and simplest one-off way to sell popular shares acquired at privatisation is to take the certificates and a form of identification to a bank, and cash them in. For repeat deals, and where investment advice is not needed, most execution-only brokers and banks offer a postal service.

This has the advantage of being cheap, although the price may vary according to any change in value of the shares during the deal. Also, the service may be limited to UK equities and privatisation stocks only.

End of road for cheap car cover

After 18 months of falling rates, car insurance premiums look set to rise again. General Accident, one of Britain's six biggest insurers and with 5 per cent of the market, gave warning this week that rates would rise by an average 4 per cent in April. Other insurers said premiums were likely to stop falling or rise slightly.

Bob Scott, GA's chief executive, said even "perfect" drivers would pay more. "The named driver, the perfect driver in the provinces with limited mileage who has had the benefit of rate cuts, may expect to pay more," he said. The Association of British Insurers, cites the severe winter weather as one reason for the rises — in spite of the growth of car crime, accidents are still the cause of the greatest number of claims, and these are always worse during a long period of icy weather.

The other reason is the fierce price war which broke out in 1994 as direct operations like Direct Line challenged more traditional insurers. Rates fell by 5 per cent last year, and this January Britannic Assurance, with about 26,000 motor policies compared with Direct Line's two million, said it was withdrawing from the market. It said it felt it was no longer worth its while to continue to compete for motor business.

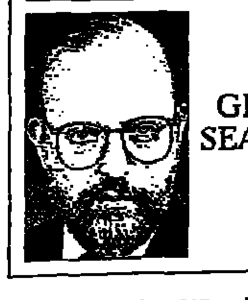
Royal Insurance, meanwhile, said it expects rates to stabilise, while Direct Line said they are "bubbling along the bottom". Most insurers feel that further falls might mean writing unprofitable business. Commercial Union has said it will not cut rates to chase market share, and Guardian Royal Exchange said it had reviewed premiums last month and had made adjustments to rates for owners in specific post code areas.

Not all drivers will be affected, even if prices rise. Most insurers now use a combination of postcode, driving history and lifestyle information to assess risks individually.

Weekend Money
is edited by
Anne Ashworth

Small investors to the rescue

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Poor old London Stock Exchange. The Commons Treasury Select Committee seems to have become naively convinced that Michael Lawrence, the Exchange's latest sacked chief executive, is the living embodiment of modern professionalism, betrayed by a cartel of clubland diehards. So the committee threatens another inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading into anti-competitive practices in Throgmorton Street.

If that happened, private investors should expect to lose out yet again. The Exchange sacrificed its credibility over the Taurus fiasco and is already being buffeted between academic regulators, knee-jerk politicians and scheming lobbies. It has become the financial equivalent of the Church of England, floundering in its own loss of confidence and beset by internal wars. Both might best be put out of their misery, were they not so important to us.

The absurd plan pushed by Mr Lawrence only got so far, so fast, because the Exchange was drifting without leadership, prey to warring factions. The plan would bring in a New York-style dealing system, matching buy and sell orders electronically. This would rapidly replace the British system, in which risk-taking market-makers act as wholesalers who must quote firm buy and sell prices but charge a spread between the two.

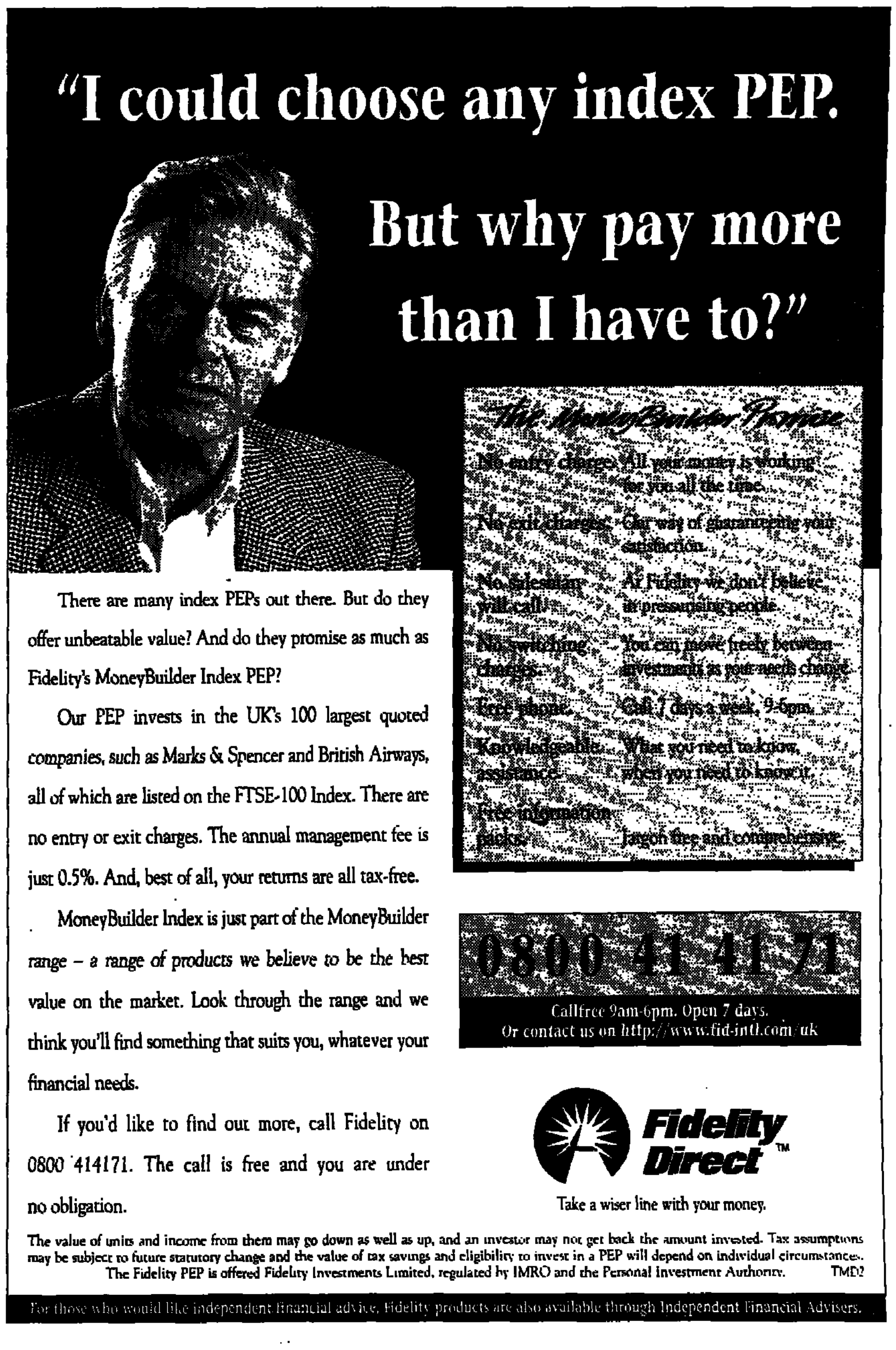
This drive for change is led by an alliance of global firms, who cannot be bothered to operate a different system in London, and big brokers, who see a chance to gain a bigger slice of investors' money at market-makers' expense. Clearly, both UK and US systems work well. Otherwise, US-style order-matching regimes would not have spread across the world and the UK would not have grown the world's top stock exchange relative to its economy. Neither is perfect, but investors have no compelling reason to swap one for another.

Responses to the Exchange's consultation paper underline this. There were two dominant themes. Why did the Exchange not offer the option of sticking with the present system and developing it, and what was the hurry? Beyond that, answers to the questionnaire were so diverse that Exchange staff are putting them on a computer in the hope of finding some common ground between 170 users, member firms and representative bodies who filled them in.

They need not bother. Opinions vary, but little enthusiasm for this radical change emerges among fund managers, the Exchange's biggest customers. That is intriguing. Powerless private investors account for two thirds of stock exchange deals yet continually succumb to the might of institutions and companies, who need us but demand better terms at our expense. Crest, the new settlement system due this summer, appears to condemn small investors to higher costs and/or indirect nominee holdings. New issues are now reserved for the big boys, if it suits promoters.

Private investors' interests played little part in the Lawrence plan either, but would certainly be affected. Change could get rid of spreads that are usually wider on small deals. But trading odd lots would require more work by brokers, who would charge for it. And keener prices must be weighed against having to wait to buy or sell, which is worrying when markets move fast.

Private client brokers are split. Most are against a move to order-matching: they justify their commissions by negotiating better prices than market-makers quote on their screens. But big brokers who offer low-commission, no-frills dealing back the change. Their reasoning is crucial. The Exchange aims to start an electronic trading system in August that might offer a really efficient way for small investors to deal. But it would have to use quoted prices and would not be much good if they are poor. That looks no reason to scrap the system and start all over again. It does make a case for market-makers to quote their best prices, at least for small lots. If the Exchange, regulators and politicos all focus on the needs of small investors, they might achieve some such subtler reform, a reform that works.



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For those who would like independent financial advice, Fidelity products are also available through Independent Financial Advisers.

Karen Zagor advises a cautious approach to buying a plan

An annuity is a very serious business . . .

COLUMBIA TRISTAR

A note of good fortune: Mrs Dashwood, in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, benefited from an annuity

WEEKEND
MONEY
GUIDE

Q What is an annuity?

A An annuity is a lump sum investment paying a guaranteed income which stops at your death. When your personal pension plan matures, the rules require you to buy an annuity from which your pension will be paid. The aim is to stop you spending all the pension money at once on a fiesta holiday and then becoming a burden on the State.

There is a wide range of annuities on the market, and it takes time and effort to choose the best product for your needs. Before deciding, you need to take your age and health into account, as well as your expectations for inflation in the coming years. The decision should not be taken lightly. Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau, says: "With an annuity purchase you must weigh up all options available before you buy because, once bought, you cannot change an annuity."

Age Concern notes that the choice of annuity can affect your retirement income by as much as 25 per cent.

Q Who needs an annuity?

A Members of personal *pension and money-purchase occupational pension* schemes must buy annuities.

Q Who does not need an annuity?

A Members of a large corporate scheme which is self-administered. The company will pay out the pension itself.

Q Must I convert all of my pension lump sum into an annuity?

A No. In most cases, you can take up to 25 per cent of your pension as a tax-free lump sum. Some, older, policies allow for a lump sum of up to 30 per cent.

Q What determines the amount of my annuity?

A Annuity rates are based partly on interest rates at the time you buy and partly on the overall amount of your pension savings. The more you have accrued, the higher your annuity payment will be. Women have higher life expectancies than men, so they usually receive less per month than a man on a similar pension. Insurers argue that they have to cover women for a longer period, so the difference is made-up in the long-term. Underlying annuity rates, which are largely based on long-term government bonds, can vary from day to day. Geoffrey Bernstein of consulting actuaries Geoffrey Bernstein & Co says: "Life companies will take the risk that you'll live to 120, but they do not like to take risks on investments. If prices on long-term government bonds fluctuate, they will move annuity rates as and when their margins get eroded."

Q How much flexibility is there?

A You are not obliged to take up the annuity offered by the company that administered your original pension. You can, and should, shop around for the most attractive rate, taking into consideration any loyalty bonuses or penalties from your own provider.

At the outset, you will have to decide whether to opt for a flat rate. Initially, you will receive more from a level rate annuity, but inflation will take its toll over time and your pension may seem less than generous over the years. Alternatively, you can choose an annuity that escalates at a set rate each year or that increases annually in step with the retail price index. These will offer less attractive rates in the early years.

Then there are with-profits and unit-linked annuities that provide an investment element. While these may offer the opportunity to earn more from your money, they also carry the risks associated with any stock market investment, so your income is not guaranteed. They tend to have annual management charges, as well as a bid-offer spread. Advisers only recommend these schemes in conjunction with another, steadier, source of income.

Phased retirement annuities, where you split your annuity into segments rather than taking it all at once, were popular before the introduction of pension drawdown concessions. The new schemes allow you to defer buying your annuity while taking income from your pension fund.

Q When must you buy an annuity?

A In the past, you bought an annuity at the time you retired. Now, you can defer the purchase until you reach 75. This is an attractive option when interest rates are low. By deferring, there is the possibility of getting better rates later. If you defer your annuity, you can still make withdrawals from your pension fund, within certain limits set by the Inland Revenue. The amounts allowed will be based partly on the current rate for annuities. Checks will be made to ensure that you are not depleting your pension fund too quickly. People in company pension schemes can transfer the proceeds into a personal pension plan to take advantage of the deferral process.

Q What are the disadvantages of deferral?

A If you delay taking your pension, you will either have to be able to live without the income, or draw income from your pension through a pension drawdown. There may be management and commission charges with a drawdown that will reduce the size of your ultimate pension. Furthermore, there are income withdrawal limits.

Q What happens to my spouse if I die first?

A You can cater for a spouse's benefit as part of your annuity purchase. This may mean a lower starting pension.

Q What if I should die with pension monies outstanding?

A Mortality risk is taken into account when calculating annuity rates. Those who die before reaching the average life expectancy will lose out while those who live far beyond their life expectancy will gain.

If you are worried about dying shortly after retirement you have several options. One is to buy an annuity which guarantees that your pension will be paid out for a set period — usually five or ten years — even if you die. Or you can opt for capital protection scheme that pays out the difference between income already paid and your original capital outlay. If you are in bad health, you can get an impaired life annuity to reflect your shorter life expectancy. Smokers can also get favourable rates.

Q What are the charges?

A Any variation from a standard annuity comes at a cost. Fees vary, depending on the product. A standard annuity also has charges, but they are lower.

Q Do I have to pay tax on my annuity?

A Income from an annuity is usually paid net of basic rate tax, but not all of your monthly income is taxable. Some is considered a return on capital, and not taxed. Non-taxpayers can usually arrange to have annuity income paid gross. William Burrows, director of Annuity Direct, notes that, in general, higher rate taxpayers benefit form phased retirement annuities because they can use part of their tax-free cash each year to provide income.

Q How do I find the best annuity?

A Read the money pages and specialist publications and consult an independent financial adviser. An IFA should help you to find the best scheme for your requirements, but it is important to educate yourself first. *A Brief Guide to Annuities* is free from Annuity Direct. Age Concern's *Pensions Handbook* costs £5.95 from Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

Where can I get advice?

Specialist advisers include:

Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393) charges £49.50 for an open market service kit and 1 per cent commission.

The Annuity Bureau (0171 620 4090) charges £58.75 for initial consultation, refundable if you buy an annuity. Minimum fee: £350 plus VAT.

Geoffrey Bernstein & Co (0181 346 0707) charges £350 plus VAT for report, refundable if you buy an annuity. Commission is 1 per cent.

Facts behind fixing an income for life

Calment outlives lawyer

THIRTY-ONE years ago, André-François Raffray, a French lawyer, agreed to pay Jeanne Calment, then 90, a lump sum and £320 a month for the rest of her life on the condition that when she died he would inherit her house. The lawyer died at Christmas but, at 121, Madame Calment is the oldest person authentically recorded. M Raffray's heirs are still paying for her first-floor apartment. Every Christmas, Madame Calment would send him the message: "Sorry I am still alive." And talking of records, Mme Calment has just put out a rap CD, based on the tales of La Fontaine.

☐ More than £4 billion of pension funds are converted to annuities every year as people retire from work.

☐ The youngest age you can buy is at two. There is no upper limit, although the maximum for a pension annuity is 75. If you smoke, you get a better deal.

☐ Impaired life annuities provide higher income for those with a life-threatening medical condition.

☐ Standard Life sells more annuities than any other life insurance company, acording to a recent survey. Standard Life says: "In most cases, our rates are the best, and on our pensions side, in particular, we offer a greater degree of flexibility."

☐ Falling annuity rates are not necessarily bad news. It means the value of pension funds has been rising.

☐ Usually, between 70 and 75 per cent of a pension fund is used to buy a pension annuity.

☐ The difference between the annuity rate, the various annuity offers made by life companies, can be as much as 40 per cent.

☐ If gilt yields fall 1 per cent then annuity rates fall about 6 per cent.

☐ Under an old-style section 226 pension policy, the tax-free cash can be as high as 33 per cent for a 75-year-old, compared with 25 per cent for a personal pension.

☐ Annuity quotes are usually valid for 14 days, so take care if annuity rates are falling.

☐ In the past, annuities were paid by the rich to reward employees as a way of providing for their relatives, such as Mrs Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility*, who received an annuity. Jane Austen wrote: "An annuity is a very serious business . . ."

☐ New rules referred to as pension drawdown allow you to defer your annuity until the age of 75.

☐ Phased retirement or staggered vesting is another way of planning your pension.

☐ You do not have to be married to be able to buy a joint-life annuity. Dependants, including handicapped children, can be included in a joint-life annuity.

MORAG PRESTON

Go for quality as bull run brings a rush to market

The recent confident run of the London market has brought a steady stream of new issues, with a sizeable queue of would-be entrants building up behind.

One corporate financier said: "The market is very strong and there is a lot of money around. Under these conditions you tend to get a lot more companies floating. While there are good companies amongst them, investors need to focus on quality."

Large flotations include Orange, the mobile phones group, which published its pathfinder prospectus this week, while the Government is buffing up Railtrack for its flotation which is expected to take place in May. Further down the line the politically sensitive flotation of British Energy is pencilled in for the summer, while Virgin Radio, Chelsea Football Club, Somerfield, the supermarket group, and Cliveden, the luxury hotelier, are among companies thought to be considering a FTSE listing.

A company normally floats in one of three ways.

☐ **Offer for sale:** Private investors can apply for shares which are offered at a fixed price. Details on the company are given in a prospectus, and information on the offer is also advertised in national newspapers. With some public offers however, the price is not always fixed in advance. Instead a price range is indicated, and investors are asked to specify the maximum investment they want to make.

☐ **Placing:** Shares are not offered directly to private investors but are placed or sold direct to large institutions. The private investor does not miss out however, if there is an intermediary offer as well. Shares are sold to brokers or other intermediaries from whom investors can apply.

☐ **Introductions:** Where a company already has a large spread of shareholders, it may choose to go public via a market introduction. It does not therefore raise new money but instead provides an official means by which shares can be bought or sold.

Visual Action star C3PO

Andrew Miles, portfolio manager at advisers Chamberlain de Broe, says potential investors need to exercise fine judgments when assessing a share offer. They should examine the company's financial performance. If it is family owned or one where there is a dominant shareholder, find the reasons for selling now. He says: "If the business founders are staying with the company it gives you more confidence."

While there is a strong stream of companies looking to float this month, most are raising money via a placing rather than a public offer, so individual investors have to wait until dealings begin to get on board. Heading the queue is **Orange**, the mobile phone group, where at least 25 per cent of the shares will be offered to investors. The information line is on 0973 100 001 (see page 33).

Dealing in the Edinburgh based **Macdonald Hotels** are expected to begin on March 14 with pricing details to be revealed next week. The company is joining via a placing and hopes to raise £25 million.

Three information technology businesses are going public this month. **Data Sciences**, a computer software company formed as a buyout from Thorn EMI, plans to raise around £40 million from a placing. **F1 Group**, a software services business, is also joining via a placing and is expected to be valued at £60 million, while **Triad**, a software and systems consultancy, is raising £35 million via a placing with dealings set to begin towards the end of the month.

Stadium, the plastics and electronics parts maker, is expected to make its debut within a few weeks, while next week sees the debut of **Visual Action**, the film and television equipment business, which has been involved with productions ranging from Star Wars to Cracker. Commercial printing group **Fulmar** also has its eyes on a £40 million float in March.

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Towards greater fairness for wives

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

The value of Prince Charles's pension is not likely to loom large in the royal divorce deliberations. The Inland Revenue pension contribution limits that constrain prince and commoner alike, mean that this asset will be insignificant compared to his other wealth.

For Charles and Diana, the news that peers had backed the campaign for pensions-splitting at divorce was merely a reminder that there are other failed marriages. But thousands of less exalted, but equally unhappy, households will be watching closely the fate of the peers' amendment to the Family Law Bill. This requires the division of pension assets at divorce, rather than at retirement. The financial condition in old age of divorced women now depends on the Bill's passage through the Commons.

Opposed to reform, though "sympathetic" to the plight of women without careers who divorce in middle life, are Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, the Social Security Minister.

The principal weapons in their defence are various sets of intriguing, but not necessarily convincing, statistics.

Take the £600 million figure thrown into the fray on Tuesday. This fearful sum is the tax revenue that will be lost each year if pensions are split. Closer inspection, however, reveals that this will be the cost if, not only divorced, but married couples opt to divide their pensions.

A divorced wife would be able to set her tax allowance against her share of her ex-husband's pension. The two Lord Mackays seem to presume that, envious of this tax advantage, those who remain together would cut the husband's pension in two. With the deft use of the wife's allowance and the lower tax bands, the yearly bill could be reduced by as much as £1,060.

Since the Inland Revenue would never smile on such a ruse, perhaps their lordships presume that contented couples would separate purely to gain a tax concession?

A decree absolute might reduce the income tax bill. But the sorts of couples who consult accountants would soon discover that divorce would also mean the loss of far more valuable capital gains and inheritance tax concessions. You can, for example, bequeath all your worldly goods to your spouse, tax-free.

The National Association of Pension Funds, which supports pensions-splitting, calculates that the tax lost (its figure is £80m) would be cancelled out by legal aid and social security savings. The hard-headed NAPF is interested not only in greater fairness for wives, but also the administrative ease of its members. They make a more persuasive case than the Government.

Cheers, anyway

THE word millennium has a noble ring. It also conjures up visions of the humdinger of a party at which you hope to be celebrating the end of the 20th century. These two associations are obviously the reason marketing departments are now attaching the word millennium to accounts, maturing in the year 2000 (see page 40).

The Birmingham Midshires Millennium account requires you to leave your money untouched until the next century and pays a fixed rate of 7 per cent. This is slightly below rates on variable rate tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas).

Investing in the fixed-rate Millennium bond is a pledge of faith in low inflation, leading to low interest rates. Ian Shepherdson, economist at HSBC Markets, believes that inflation will not return. He forecasts that the base rate in 2000 will be about 5 per cent, making the bond look quite attractive. His most pessimistic peers predict a rate of 7.5 per cent.

If they are all wrong, then at least there will be a party where you can drown your sorrows.

Will investors in Orange tap into a bright future?

Karen Zagor on some important considerations before signing up for action in the £2bn-plus float

ROBIN MAYES

The numbers game: Hans Snook, Orange managing director

More details about the flotation of Orange, the digital mobile phone company, emerged this week with the publication of the company's 208-page pathfinder prospectus.

Orange expects the 325 million new ordinary shares to be valued at between £2.2 billion and £2.45 billion, with an offer price of 175p-205p a share. The anticipated offer price is about 15 per cent lower than most anaylsts had expected.

Dates for the UK retail offer have now been set. It will open on March 12 and close on March 22, with the exact share price to be fixed on March 27. Individual investors will have to buy at least £1,000 worth of shares to take part in the launch. No special incentives are being offered to Orange customers, although Orange's 2,500 employees will be given 50 free shares each.

Is the lower offer price bad news for private investors?

No. By pegging the launch to a lower price, investors are more likely to see their shares increase quickly in value. The company's current owners, Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace, will retain about 74 per cent.

Why was the valuation reduced?

Those involved in the sale say the lower valuation will improve the chances of the launch being a success. Others point out that rival mobile phone companies Cellnet and Vodafone have recently cut tariffs for their digital phone customers, putting pressure on Orange. Market sentiment about technology stocks has also become less robust in the months since Orange announced its plans.

How will the share price be determined?

There will be a standard "bookbuilding" process between now and the offer's close. The company and its banking syndicate will sound out institutions to find how many shares they would buy at prices within the 175p-205p range. Information about which institutions could be long-term investors and which are in it for a quick profit will be noted. The offer price will take all of this into account.

Will the final offer price fall within the expected price band?

There is no guarantee that the ultimate offer will be priced at 175p-205p a share. It is possible that the shares will be priced at a higher level if demand is very strong, and vice versa.

Is Orange a good bet for private investors?

Most analysts think the future is bright for Orange. The company's growth has been impressive since its launch 22 months ago. With 440,000 customers, it now has more than 25 per cent of the UK digital phone market. Digital connections are clearer and better for transmitting data than the analogue service that provides the bulk of the business for Vodafone and Cellnet.

In an industry where customers are frustrated increasingly by convoluted pricing structures, Orange, with its easy to understand tariff structure, stands out. The competitive rates are likely to keep existing customers and there should be no problem in finding new takers since only 9.4 million Britons have cellular phones. The proportion of cellular phone users is expected to reach 20 per cent by 2000. A research report by James Ross, of ABN Amro Hoare Govett, says "there is over £1.7 billion of potential upside in the company's value over the next five years".

What is the downside?

Orange is not expected to post a profit before 1998 and dividends are not expected before 2000. Analysts at NatWest Securities do not expect dividends until 2005. This means investors who need income should not rush in. It is also possible that the overall market will not grow as quickly as anticipated, or that an as yet unknown techology will make digital mobile phones obsolete. A price war could also eat into Orange's profits.

☐ The Orange Share Offer information line is open from 8am to 8pm on 0973 100 001.

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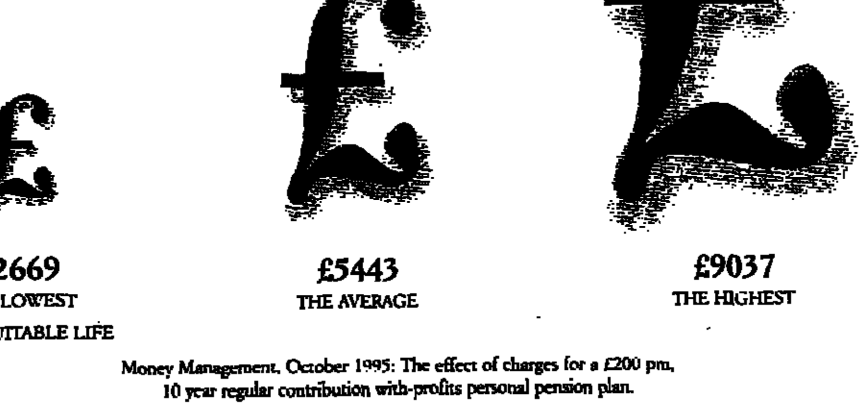

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* Money Management: October 1995

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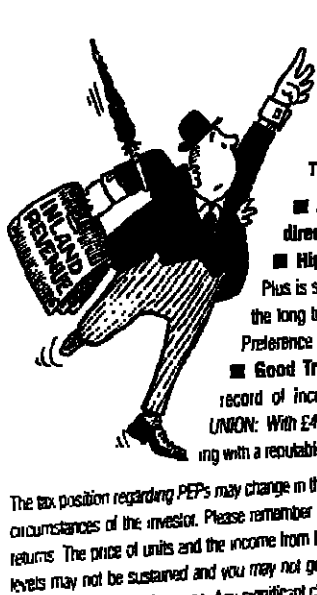

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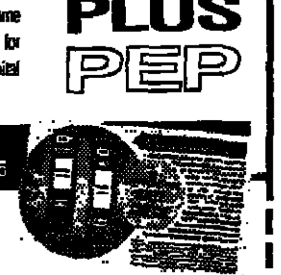

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Prepare to retire or live in poverty, **Helen Pridham** says

Check out that pension

The state pension is shrinking but persuading people to make adequate private pension provision for retirement is not proving easy either for the Government or the insurance companies.

The Government would like people to save more so they can afford to pay for things, such as long-term care, when they are elderly. But the Department of Social Security has found that many youngsters start a personal pension scheme but then stop paying into it after a short time. To increase awareness of pensions among 18 to 35-year-olds, the department is currently piloting an advertising campaign in the Central TV region, in the Midlands.

Many people still have an over-optimistic view of their future pension position. According to research from the Norwich Union, two thirds of people expect their standard of living to improve or stay the same. But the Norwich Union found that, in reality, many would not have enough to keep them much above the poverty line.

The problem is that most people do not actually know how much pension they will get. A survey by Eagle Star found that more than half of those aged over 18 did not have a clue about the size of pension they can expect at retirement.

Finding out about pension entitlement is not always easy, especially if you have changed employers several times. People even have misconceptions about the state pension. A DSS spokesman said: "They often assume the basic state pension is theirs by right but it is, in fact, a contributory benefit." So if you have gaps in your contribution record, such as periods spent abroad or in long-term unemployment, you may not get a full state pension. To qualify for a full pension you must contribute or be credited with contributions for 90 per cent of your potential working life.

PENSIONS GUIDE
PART
1

So men must contribute for 44 years and women currently retiring must do so for 39 years. Any woman born after April 5, 1955, whose offical retirement age is now 65, will also need a contribution record spanning 44 years.

However, there are certain concessions. National Insurance credits are given to those receiving unemployment benefit, but this benefit ceases after one year and so do the credits, except for men aged over 60. Alternatively, the number of years that count as your working life may be reduced by home responsibilities protection, which was introduced in 1978, and applies when you are off work looking after children or sick relatives.

If you have other gaps in your NI record, you may be able to plug them by making voluntary Class 3 contributions. But you have to do this within six years of the gap occurring, otherwise it is too late. Class 3 payments cost £5.65 for each week of contributions you have missed. They go up to £5.95 a week from April.

The basic state retirement pension is currently worth £58.85 a week. It rises to £61.15 from April 8. If your contribution record is not sufficient to qualify for the full amount you will receive a proportionate amount. The minimum you can get is 25 per cent, but you must have contributed for at least 11 years (ten years for women). You may also qualify for an additional pension through the state earnings related pension scheme if you have been employed by a company without its own opt-out pension scheme. This scheme was introduced in 1978, though since 1988 it has been possible for individuals to opt out, and many have done so.

Finding out how much pension you can expect from the state and any private pension is essential if you want to know what to do in future to ensure you have an adequate pension when you retire.

How to find how much pension you can expect

☐ Your state pension — Contact the DSS Pensions Infoline on 0345 31 32 33 (calls charged at local rate) and ask them to send you an Application for Retirement Pension Forecast (BR19). They will also answer other queries about pensions.

☐ A pension from your employer — In a final salary scheme, your employer should provide you with a benefit statement each year. In a money purchase scheme, you will usually get a statement of account and an illustration of how much pension you might get at retirement.

☐ Pensions from previous employers — Write to your previous employer and find out what your entitlements are. If you have lost contact, call the Pensions Registry on 0191 225 6398 for a trace request form.

☐ Your personal pension — You should get annual statements which your financial adviser or insurance company can use to estimate the size of your pension at retirement.

Next: What to save

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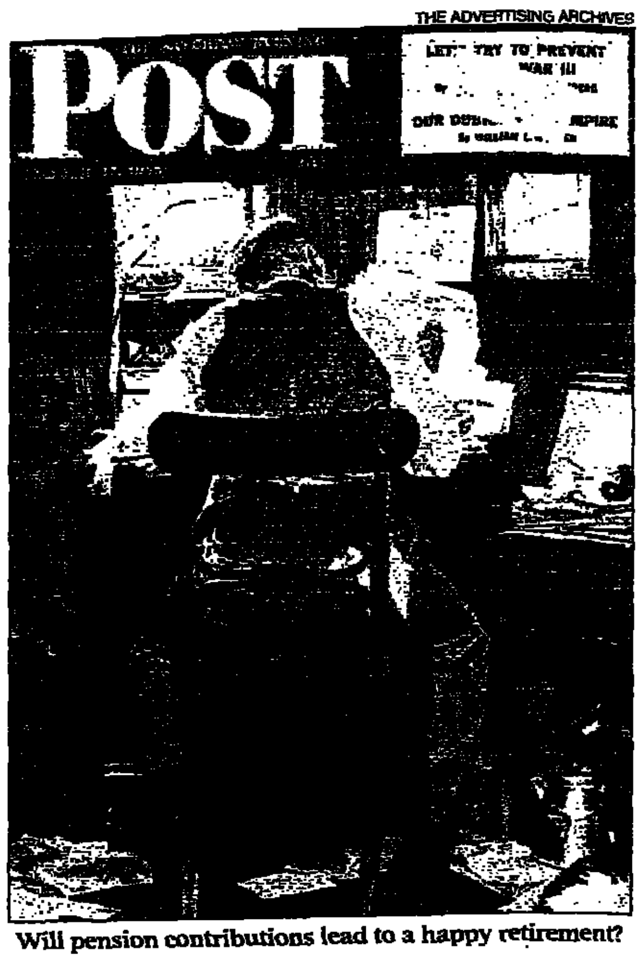

Will pension contributions lead to a happy retirement?

Time and patience run out

Victims of alleged pension mis-selling will have to endure long delays waiting for compensation or risk having their cases thrown out if they try to short-circuit the industry's own review process by going to court, it has emerged.

More life companies are succumbing to pressure from regulators and the courts, and are agreeing to ignore legal time limits which could prevent some victims of alleged mis-selling claiming compensation through the courts. Norwich Union and Save & Prosper are the latest to agree to waive such limits.

In return, some companies are insisting that people wrongly advised to transfer into personal pensions should wait for their case to be investigated under the terms of the industry-wide review. Only then, if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of the review, can they take their cases to court. Some, such as Legal & General and Allied Dunbar, are setting time limits within which people can take court action. The limit is four months with Legal & General and three months with Allied Dunbar.

Life offices hope their concession over time barring will stop people going to court. But unions and solicitors acting for victims are angry at what they call the "carrot and stick approach" which they believe will mean long delays for their clients. The industry-wide review, set up by the Securities and Investments Board two years ago, has already fallen well behind schedule. Only a handful of cases have so far received any compensation.

Philip Ryley, head of the pensions unit at Ringrose Wharton, which is acting for members of the Royal College of Nursing, the GMB and individual victims, said: "All of these claims are for between £15,000 and £100,000. If our client is not in a priority group, why should we wait for the review?" Ringrose Wharton has issued court proceedings on behalf of a number of clients.

The Personal Investment Authority, the City watchdog leading the review, last week sent out 3,400 letters to life offices asking them to confirm they will ignore time limits if people dissatisfied with the outcome of the review take legal action "within a reasonable period". So far, it has received agreement only from 26 life companies and 127 independent financial advisers, although others have already issued public statements agreeing to co-operate. Legally, people can be barred from seeking compensation if they took out their pension more than six years ago or if they claim more than three years after they could reasonably be expected to know there was a problem. Long delays in dealing with claims are putting more in danger of having their cases time barred, although many will argue they could not have reasonably known there was a problem until the end of 1993, when the SIB published a damning report on mis-selling. They can only stop the clock if they take out a protective writ against their pension provider, which allows them to claim after time limits have expired.

The courts this week put pressure on leading life companies, including the Prudential, Norwich Union and Allied Dunbar, to offer acceptable compensation to members of the Royal College of Nursing and the GMB union by the end of the year or be prepared to go to court.

SARA McCONNELL

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The pension that never was

I have recently received two letters from Barclays Bank Staff Pensions. Enclosed was a certificate issued by Barclays when I left a few years after my marriage.

I am rather confused as to why I do not seem entitled to a proper pension, having worked for Barclays for almost ten years from May 1960 [at 18] to December 1969 [at 27]. I thought that staff with five or more years' service were entitled to a pension.

It is difficult to understand why Barclays will not give me a pensions booklet and an estimate of the amount I will receive when I am 60. The letters suggest that my entitlement is only the sum shown on the enclosed certificate. Surely this should be increased for inflation at least. I am 53 and would like a full view of the amount of pension to which I shall be entitled when I am 60.
JUDITH RICHARDS,
Shrewsbury.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

How much will your pension be when you retire? This may sound a simple question your employer or pension provider could answer at the touch of a few computer keys. Unfortunately it is not always so easy, as this look at our pensions postbag shows (Sara McConnell writes).

It is not surprising you were confused, as Barclays initially mixed you up with someone else when it first replied. In that letter it said staff had to complete five years' service and be at least 26 to qualify. This does not apply to you because these rules only came in in 1973, four years after you left. To its credit, the bank has since apologised.

"In your case, your career at Barclays began and ended before 1973 so older, less generous rules applied. You had to have worked at Barclays for at least ten years and be at least 30 years old before qualifying. You unfortunately fulfilled neither of these conditions so do not qualify for a proper pension.

Instead you will get an equivalent pension benefits payment of £10.25 a year, as Barclays was contracted out of the then state earnings related pension arrangements. This is not indexed for inflation so will be worth even less when you retire. As it is such a small amount, it will be paid by lump sum. But it says it cannot give an estimate of how much it will be. This depends on various factors including interest rates and long-term gilt yields when you retire and life expectancy rates. This information will be reduced to a formula to ascertain the size of your lump sum.

Cold comfort: Judith Richards is entitled to £10.25 a year

Tread carefully when toying with transfers

I am 60 years old and have no dependants. I work full time and am a basic-rate taxpayer. I am planning to retire at 65. My previous employer has a pension scheme and when I left, the pension was frozen as my present employer would not agree to its transfer, though both were with Legal & General. This pension will pay me £1,610 a year. I started a new pension with my present employer but four years ago it said it could not afford to continue with the scheme. It is being wound up but I do not know the value of this pension.

When this scheme closed I thought it best to start a personal pension. I chose Hearts of Oak and invested £4,500 of my savings in a lump sum in one plan in 1992. With tax relief the gross lump sum is £6,000. I also opened a second Hearts of Oak plan and started investing £75 a month net (£100 a month gross). At the beginning of this year the £6,000 had a transfer value of £6,164. Would you advise me to carry on or even increase my £75 a month on the basis that I will at least get a tax break on my contributions?
GORDON DEGG,
Stoke-on-Trent.

Mark Bolland, a fee-based financial adviser at Chamberlain de Broe, said: "If the pension you are set to receive from your previous employer is not index-linked, you could consider transferring it. You have to tread extraordinarily carefully.

"People in generous occupational schemes should not transfer. But in this case if there has been no revaluation for inflation since 1982, there could be an argument for transferring to a personal pension. It is important to choose a scheme with low ongoing charges, such as Equitable Life, as you only have five years to go until retirement." He said Mr Degg could get a reasonable L&G transfer as this is a final-salary scheme with ten years' contributions. To save set-up charges, he said, the lump sum could be added to that from the previous pension in the same personal pension. He added that Hearts of Oak is not noted for better than average performance or lower than average charges.

A transfer value of £6,164 after four years represents a return of $^2{}_3$ of a percentage point compound a year. You should be able to get a better return elsewhere than on the Hearts of Oak schemes. Hearts of Oak confirmed the transfer value and said the cash value without transferring would be 5 per cent higher. But it refused to comment on your case or release any other information about your policies.

☐ Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

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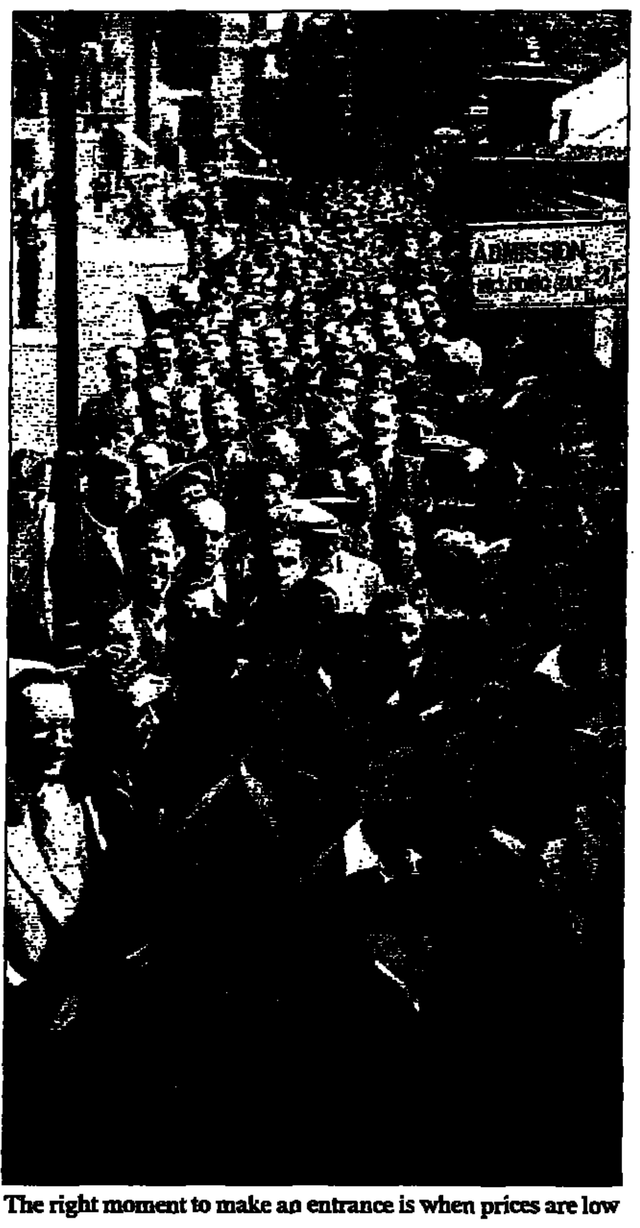

The right moment to make an entrance is when prices are low

Timing it right will give an investment more pep

Caroline Merrell looks at three new trusts on offer amid warnings that it might not be the best time to buy

The small investor is renowned for getting things entirely wrong when it comes to choosing the right moment to put money into the stock market, invariably investing at the top of the market and selling at the bottom.

The sales figures for unit trusts in January are a reflection of this phenomenon, showing net sales of £1.4 billion, the second highest figure on record.

The driving forces behind the record levels of investment are the high levels of the UK stock market, millions of pounds available from maturing Tessas and the looming end-of-year deadline for investment in personal equity plans.

The FT-SE 100 index has risen 20 per cent over the past 12 months, and some commentators believe that it will not rise significantly during the rest of the year. Three investment trusts that have been attracting a large amount of money and attention are Peps from Schroders, M&G and Perpetual.

The M&G and Schroders funds closed yesterday, and will start trading on March 8, while the offer on the Perpetual fund runs until March 13. It will start trading on March 21.

The fund managers claim that they have attracted millions of pounds worth of investors' money. Investors have also been attracted by the fact they can subscribe for shares equivalent to two years' worth of Pep allowance — £6,000.

However, financial advisers are saying that, in spite of the calibre of the investment houses involved, the funds could be set for a bumpy ride over the next few months.

The last time the public poured money into two high-profile investment trusts, in this case specialising in European privatisations two years ago, the funds immediately moved to a big discount.

The fund managers, Kleinwort Benson and Mercury, have been attempting to narrow the discount by trying to increase the demand for shares through roadshows and offers on their savings plans, and by buying back their own shares. However, the 80,000 or so investors in these funds have yet to reap any real rewards on their investments. Financial advisers say anyone choosing to invest in one of these three new funds should take at least a five-year view.

Jason Holland, an analyst with Best Investment, said that his company was not recommending any of the three. "As a general principle, we are not recommending these trusts," he said.

"With the UK market reaching record levels, we do not think trusts based entirely in the UK are a good investment at the moment. These funds are being launched to coincide with the end of the tax year, they could end up issuing so much stock that it will kill demand in the after market."

Investment trusts that are not able to generate interest in their shares after they have started trading will often fall to a discount. This means that even if the fund manager does well and the assets of the trust rise in value, investors will be unable to redeem their shares for their asset value.

For those who are keen to invest in one of these trusts, Mr Holland recommends the Schroders Pep. He said: "They have a lot of experience of launching investment trusts and are adept at continuing to promote their shares in the after market." He pointed out that Schroders had a track record of moving some of their investment trusts on to a premium.

Ian Millward, investment marketing manager with Chase de Vere, said: "It is very hard to predict what the UK stock market is going to do. Had these funds been launched a year ago, they would be 20 per cent cheaper than they are today."

He added: "The first thing we would do with clients who come to us who are thinking of investing, is to see whether they have exposure outside the UK. If they do not, then we might suggest they go for a more internationally diverse investment. We also would not recommmend investing unless they are committed for at least five years."

He also prefers the Schroders trust. "The fund is going to be quite aggressively managed. It will only hold around 30 to 40 stocks. Schroders have a reputation for looking at hundreds and hundreds of companies before deciding which ones to pick."

Those financial advisers who are concerned about the levels of the UK stock market would recommend personal equity plans with much more international exposure.

For example, Chase de Vere would consider putting its clients into an international Pep like the one offered by Fidelity. This has a choice of three different trusts — special situations, European and Far Eastern.

Mr Millward said: "The fund management group has excellent long-term performance." He pointed out that most of the rise over the past year in the UK market had been in the bigger companies. The special situations trust could invest in the companies that did not rise as much last year. European companies could also provide good growth prospects, he believes.

Chase de Vere also recommends an investment trust offered by Flemings. Fleming Worldwide trust is 45 to 60 per cent invested in UK equities, 10 to 25 per cent in international equities, and 20 to 30 per cent in high-yielding international bonds — emerging market debt.

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Daniel Godfrey, Flemings marketing director, said: "The level of interest in the trust would seem to indicate that investors have taken the view that 5 per cent per annum growth from this type of portfolio is not excessive."

Mr Holland said that he favoured internationally diversified Peps from fund managers such as Perpetual and Morgan Grenfell. "Those who like the Perpetual name, but who already have too high an exposure to the UK, could opt for its Growth Pep. It has a good performance track record and is invested in countries other than the UK."

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Insurers win a place at wedding feast

Since the average wedding costs about £10,000, few can afford mishaps. Yet insurance is usually the last item on a wedding list, with only 20 per cent of weddings covered.

"A wedding is the most critical piece of organising people will do in their lives and the most expensive half day they will have to foot the bill for," says Brian King, of Ecclesiastical Direct, one of ten insurers covering weddings. "It is a huge financial risk, yet having it covered involves nothing more than a few minutes filling in a form."

Wedding insurance policies became available about eight years ago. Their growth was aided by the recession, when reception venues went bust, causing couples to lose deposits.

Steve Newman, of Insurex-Exposure, another company in the wedding insurance field, cites mishaps, such as a spark from a reception barbecue burning down the hotel, and marquee contractors wrecking flower beds.

Wedding insurance polices vary in cost and detail. Most provide cover for cancellation for "any reason beyond the participants' control". Being left standing at the altar does not qualify.

Arrangements that must be prebooked and paid for, including church, photographer, caterer, flowers and honeymoon, are usually covered. Couples can also claim if a wedding is cancelled because a close relative falls ill or dies. Exclusions can include lost rings (although some policies cover claims up to £500), accidents arising from dangerous sports, and the posting abroad of one or both of the couple.

Insurex-Exposure charges £2.50 per £100 of cover, and a special feature is that it pays up to £10,000 for "failure to vacate" the reception venue. "A lot of places charge a steep penalty if the party stays over the booking time," says Mr Newman. Whereas many policies cover damage or theft of wedding attire and gifts for only a limited period, Insurex-Exposure offers cover up to £10,000 from the day the policy is taken out. It gives £1 million of personal liability cover.

Weddingsurance, arranged by Jackson Emms & Co and underwritten by Cornhill Insurance, costs £45 and a special feature is bad weather cover. Jackson Emms started receiving calls this month from couples worried that snow would force cancellation of their wedding. However, the main concern, according to Debbie Smart, of Jackson Emms, is the reception venue going bust. "That is often the most expensive part of the day," she says. The policy includes a legal helpline.

Home & Overseas, part of Eagle Star Insurance, launched its Safeguard Weddings policy on January 29. Taken in conjunction with travel insurance, it is designed for couples marrying abroad, and the cost is £25.

Ecclesiastical Direct's policy costs £35, and a special feature is cancellation cover if the couple are posted abroad. There is £1 million public liability cover.

Leisurecare Insurance, underwritten by Norwich, costs £42 for £3,000 cover. There is £500 cover for damage to the cake or to the wedding dress, including use of the dress on the day; many insurers take the view that once the wedding has started, the bride does not care what happens to her gown.

JENNAI COX

Marrying into money

Caroline Merrell

on the implications of a Labour plan to offer newlyweds an interest-free loan of £5,000

Wedded bliss: Imran Khan and his bride, Jemima Goldsmith, did not face money worries

A Labour government should encourage people to marry by offering them an interest-free loan of £5,000, according to Tony Blair's right hand man, Peter Mandelson.

This recommendation is detailed in Mr Mandelson's book, *The Blair Revolution — Can New Labour Deliver?* He claims one option the Shadow Cabinet should seriously consider implementing is the provision of medium-term, deferred payment, interest-free loans. He also thinks that these loans should be extended to couples who for reasons of their own reject marriage. This could include couples who live together, or couples of the same sex.

The loan would far outweigh any of the present financial benefits of getting married which are:

■ **Married couple's allowance:** The extra allowance automatically paid to the husband which is equivalent to 15 per cent of £1,720 — £258. This rises to £1,790 in April, with £268. Once it was tax efficient to get married at the end of a tax year, and benefit from a full year's married allowance. Now, the allowance is apportioned according to the number of months of marriage in one particular tax year.

■ **Inheritance tax:** Anything left to your spouse is free from inheritance tax. Married couples can also make gifts between themselves and not have to pay inheritance tax or capital gains tax. These gifts are called exempt transfers. Gifts made to people other than your spouse, such as your children, are called potentially-exempt transfers and are only tax-free if the person making the gift dies after seven years.

These gifts can be shares, property or cash. If you are not married, and you decide to make a gift to your partner, it will become taxable if you die within seven years.

■ **Capital gains tax and income tax:** Husbands and wives have their own capital gains tax exemption, which will rise to £6,000 in April. If one partner is a lower-rate taxpayer, or does not pay tax at all, it could be possible to arrange savings to pay as little tax as possible.

■ **Pensions:** Most occupational schemes are set up to give a pension to the surviving married partner of an occupational scheme member. The amount of pension received by the surviving spouse depends on the particular scheme — usually it is half the pension received by the member, although some schemes such as the one operated by the mineworkers, pays widows or widowers two thirds.

Most schemes do not make allowances for common-law relationships or homosexual ones.

This is changing, and some schemes will treat non-married couples as though they were married, particularly if children are involved.

■ **Death-in-service benefits:** Many companies offer death-in-service benefits equivalent to a multiple of salary. This is automatically paid to the next of kin, unless someone else is nominated. Therefore, a spouse would receive this, but a live-in partner would not.

Mother saves the special occasion

BARBARA MOORE'S wedding day was saved from disaster by her mother's insistence that she take out insurance.

In March last year, four months before she was due to be married, Barbara ordered her dress from a bridal shop in Surrey. For a £200 deposit they promised a first fitting within eight weeks. "It was wonderful," she said. "The shop said they could copy a dress I had fallen in love with." A week before her first fitting, she called the shop to check everything was going according to plan. The material had not yet been ordered.

"I couldn't believe it," she says. "I had to start tearing around London looking for the material myself."

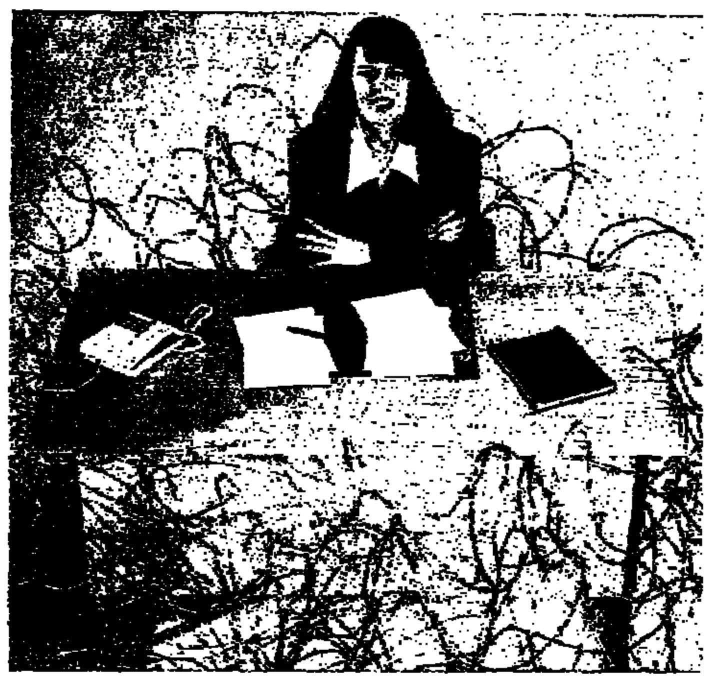
The shop started to have the dress made, but, within days, went out of business.

Having lost her deposit, Barbara called Cornhill Insurance to make a claim. By return of post, she had a cheque.

"They were really wonderful, so efficient," she said.

Barbara, who persuaded the freelance dressmaker who had been working for the bridal shop to finish her dress before her wedding in July, said: "I have to put it down to my mother. I would never have thought of taking out insurance. She made us do it as soon as we started shelling out money."

The wedding cost £4,000, the insurance £45. JC



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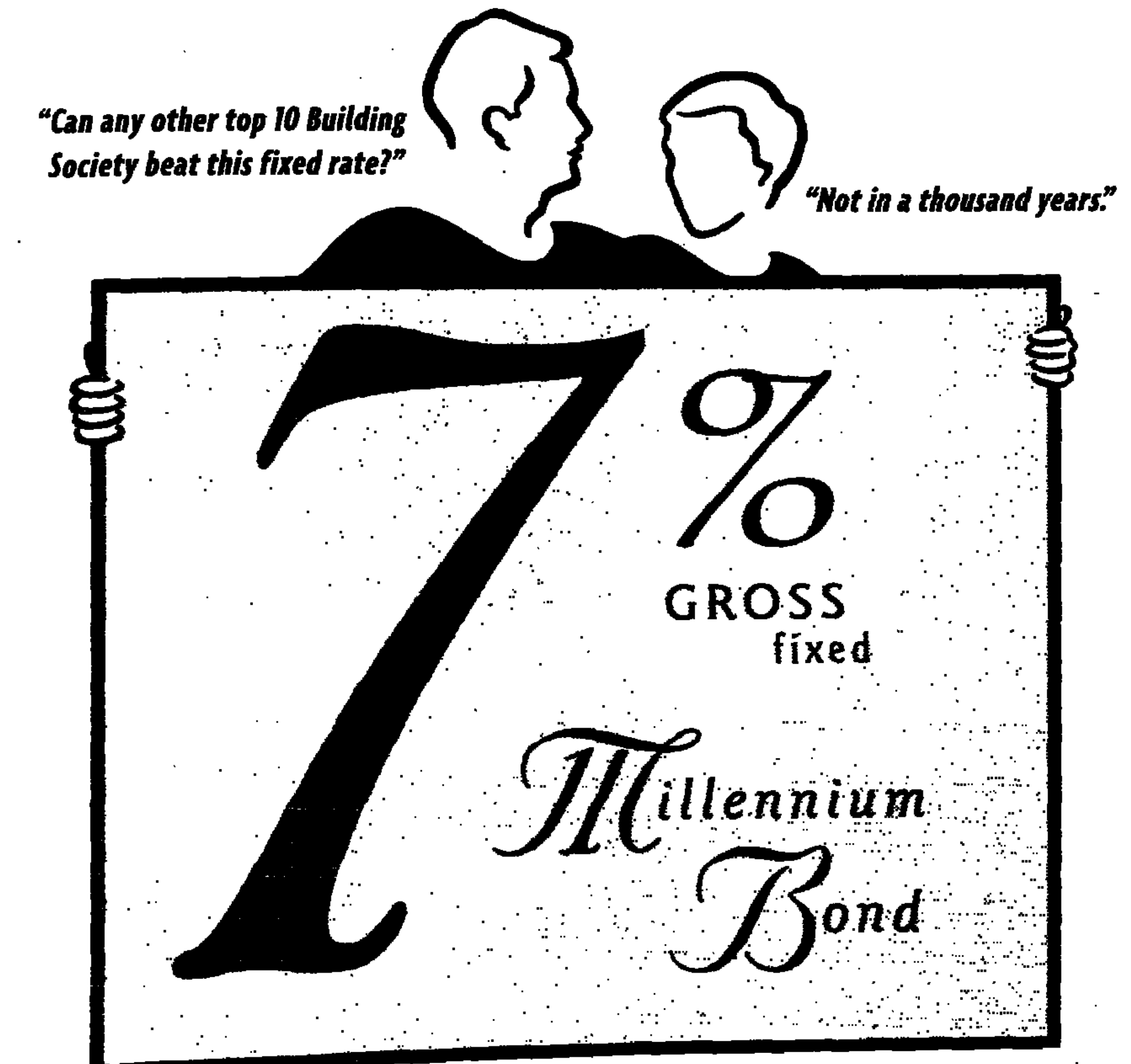
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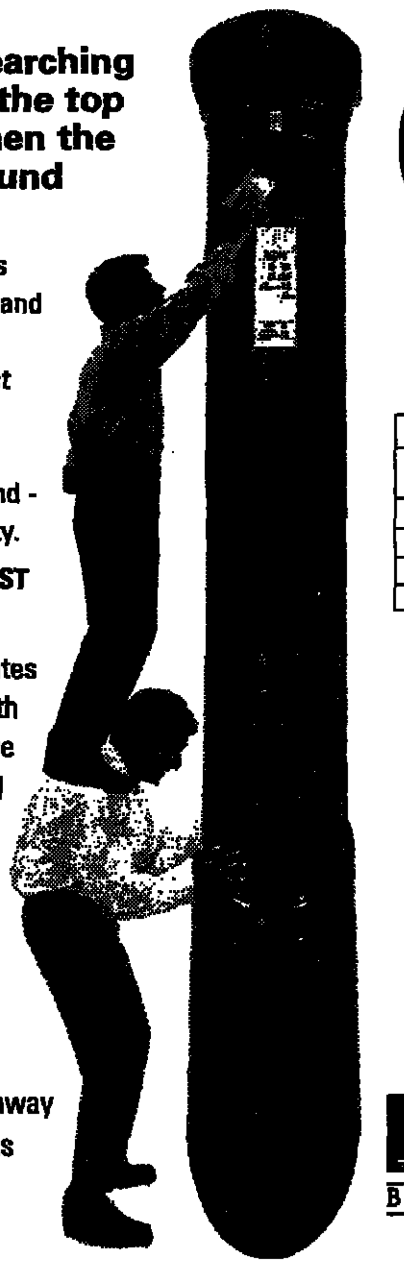

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The value of valuations

Karen Zagor finds out the form for those who want to know if a knick-knack is an objet d'art

Brendan Lynch, of Sotheby's, examines a thang-ka

My father-in-law had no idea whether he was buying a pretty forgery or a priceless antique when he paid £30 for a *thangka* from a Tibetan refugee in Katmandu 1969. "I was told it came from a Tibetan temple, and I don't think they had the facilities in the refugee camp to make it themselves," he said when he gave it to us as a wedding present 25 years later. When we decided to get it valued, we had little to go on. Luckily, London is rich in resources for valuing art and other collectibles, and it quickly became apparent that we would have no trouble getting information about our mysterious present.

Whether you have inherited a Gauguin from a favourite uncle or picked up an antique fountain pen from a flea market, there is someone willing to put a price on it. The definition of what is collectible is growing all the time. Guns and teddy bears are every bit as collectible as oil paintings, and just as easy to get valued. Before approaching a valuer, however, it pays to do a bit of homework. You should know as much as possible about the possession. A modern art specialist at an auction house says: "History is very important. It's important to know how long the painting has been with the present owner or in the family. We will also take into consideration the artist, the signature, the condition of the painting and any gallery or other labels on the back."

Auction Houses — The four main auction houses (Bonhams, Christie's, Sotheby's and Phillips) all offer free valuation. Valuables can be taken in, or a photograph sent in. Unless you live close to one of the houses, sending in a photograph is probably the best first step, but the image must be clear. The dimensions of the object should be included, as should enlargements of any signatures. A Phillips specialist in Oriental art said: "We can usually tell quite a bit from a good photograph." However, a firm valuation may not be possible unless an expert has actually seen the object.

If you want an over-the-counter valuation, it makes sense to ring before leaving home to make sure the appropriate expert will be available. Brendan Lynch, head of Sotheby's Islamic and Indian art department was able to tell me a great deal about *thangkas* in general before breaking the news that mine was more of interest for its unusual iconography than for its actual value. He estimated that it was painted in the early 20th century.

If you have a sizeable collection or a few large, unwieldy objects, the auction houses will send someone to your home for the valuation. Sotheby's says there is no set fee for this service, it is negotiable. Christies provides a printed, bound valuation document for those who pay to have a home collection valued.

While the auction houses provide their verbal valuation services for free, you will have to pay for a written valuation. Some, however, may rebate the cost if the item is auctioned within a certain time limit. When getting an object valued with the intention of selling, owners should consider its market.

Christies and Sotheby's have a core business and great knowledge of European masters. Phillips is geared more towards decorative arts and is good on guns. The specialists will usually be quite candid.

Bonham W & F C Auctioneers: Montpelier Galleries, Montpelier St, London SW7; 0171-393 3900. Christies International: 8 King Street, London SW1Y 6QT; 0171-839 9060; or 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7; 0171-581 7611. Phillips Auctioneers: 101 New Bond Street, London W1 0AS; 0171-629 6602. Sotheby's Auctioneers: 34-35 New Bond Street; London W1 2AA; 0171-493 8080.

> ❛ Specialists can usually tell quite a bit from a good photograph ❜

Independent Valuers — The decision about whether to use an auction house or independent valuer will depend partly on your requirements. Clare Pardy, production manager at Nordstern, the specialist art insurer, says: "If you have a house full of a great mixture of things, an auction house can call on in-house experts in a wide range of areas. Independents can be a bit quicker because there is not such a large organisation to get into motion." Another difference is that auction houses are primarily interested in selling, while independent valuers are purely concerned with valuation. To choose an independent valuer look for members of the Incorporated Society for Valuers and Auctioneers or the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyers. Antique dealers can also provide valuations; they should be members of the British Antique Dealers Association or Lapada, the association of art and antique dealers.

Museums — These can be a great source of information on the history and importance of valuables, but they will not be able to help with valuations. A spokeswoman for the Victoria & Albert Museum says: "We can't discuss valuations because we may be seen to be tweaking the market. But our departments do have opinions, so, if you have an interesting print or piece of metal work, they might be able to tell you a little about its history and how it was made." A museum will be able to say if a possession is a museum piece.

Richard Blurton, assistant keeper of the British Museum's Oriental Antiquities department estimated that my *thang-ka*, depicting Padmasambhava, the founder of Tibetan Budhism, in his paradise, was painted in the 1920s. Mr Blurton pointed out that the writing on the back, which included mantras, indicated that it had been used for worship. He was also able to show me a photograph of a similar depiction of Padmasambhava from the museum's collection.

A museum may be the best place to go for those who have an interesting collection which is not very valuable. Christmas card collections may not be worth much to an auctioneer, but a museum curator might find them interesting. To speak to a curator, ring first to find out what the museum's policy is about speaking to members of the public and whether the appropriate curator is available. Possible sources of information include the British Museum, the National Gallery, the V&A and the Tate.

The law — If you are worried that your amazing flea market find is the product of illicit gains, you should contact the Art Loss Register. The register keeps an image database of missing or stolen property from around the world. It includes any collectibles from oil paintings to garden sculptures. Send a clear photograph to the the Art Loss Register, 13 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HH; 0171-235 3393.

Insurance — If you have just one or two pieces worth a few thousand pounds you would probably have them included in general household contents cover. They must be itemised. A more extensive collection can be covered through one of the main art insurers: Nordstern, Hiscox (part of Lloyd's) and Chubb. Most people get specialist art cover through a broker, who will find the best value for the collection. "The main difference is depreciation after damage," says Ms Pardy. "Under normal contents cover, if a painting were damaged, the cost of restoration would be covered.

"Under our policy, we pay for any fall in value as a result of restoration. If the picture was in pristine condition and now needs to be lined, that can have a detrimentional effect on its value. For anyone who is at all serious, that is something to consider."

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Principality BS 01222 344188	Regular Savings	£10pm	£250pm	1.00
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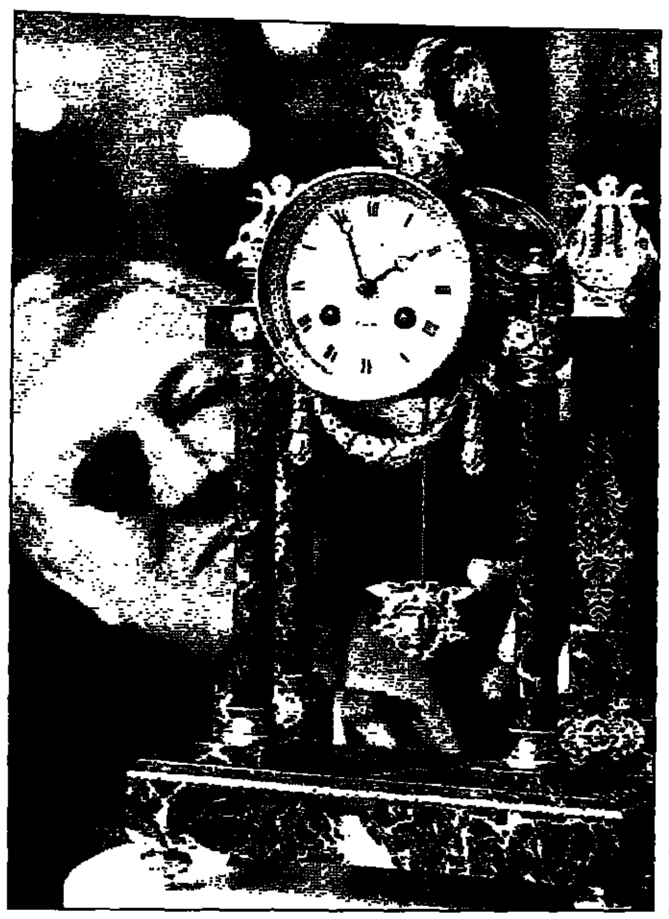

Even small savers can invest in equities regular as clockwork

Sarah Jones examines the options open to small-scale regular savers

Foster & Braithwaite, the investment management firm, is doing its bit to promote Tony Blair's stakeholder economy with the launch of its regular savings plan. The F&B Stakeholder Savings Plan allows regular savers to accumulate a portfolio of holdings in F&B unit trusts for a minimum investment of £50 a month.

John Vintcent, F&B managing director, said: "For many people, a regular savings plan is the means by which they can gain a stake in the equity market. The F&B Investment Trust Fund is really a portfolio of investment trust shares and provides a wide exposure to UK and overseas markets."

A £50 a month investment over the past five years (a total of £3,000) in the F&B Investment Trust would have netted £4,504. There is an initial charge of 4 per cent and an annual charge of 1.25 per cent. There are no penalties for stopping or changing the level of monthly contributions.

About three quarters of the 1,600 unit trusts currently on the market offer regular savings schemes. Minimum monthly investments range from £20 to £200. The major benefit, as providers see it, is called "pound cost averaging". This is the averaging effect of putting the same pound amount into units each month. If the price of units falls, the pounds buy more units, so the average cost will be lower than the apparent average price.

Peter Edwards, of Premier Unit Trust Ltd, is not convinced by pound cost averaging, saying: "It's only good if the stock market goes down. When the market goes up, as we all expect it to, pound cost averaging loses out. We prefer to tell people to accumulate cash in a deposit account, and when they have a lump sum, say £1,000, put it into a unit trust.

"It's human nature to sign up to a small amount each month and forget all about it. You can then find you have acquired too much in a second grade investment. Drip-feeding is not a sound investment principle."

If you are keen to get into equities through a monthly savings plan, it makes sense to go for a Pep. Morgan Grenfell, Perpetual, Schroders and Virgin Direct all offer such plans.

Building societies have been the traditional port of call for regular savers, but rates have been falling. When Bradford & Bingley launched its Monthly Saver account a year ago, it paid 8 per cent gross per annum. That is down to 7 per cent. The only large institutions that come near that rate are Nationwide's Bonus Saver (5.85 per cent) and Abbey National's Regular Savings (4 per cent).

To get the higher rates, terms are strict. With the B&B you have to save the same amount — between £10 and £100 for three years — each month. However, you can change the monthly amount on the anniversary each year. Payments must also be made by standing order, and you get the full interest only if 12 consecutive payments are made in the year.

More savings, next page

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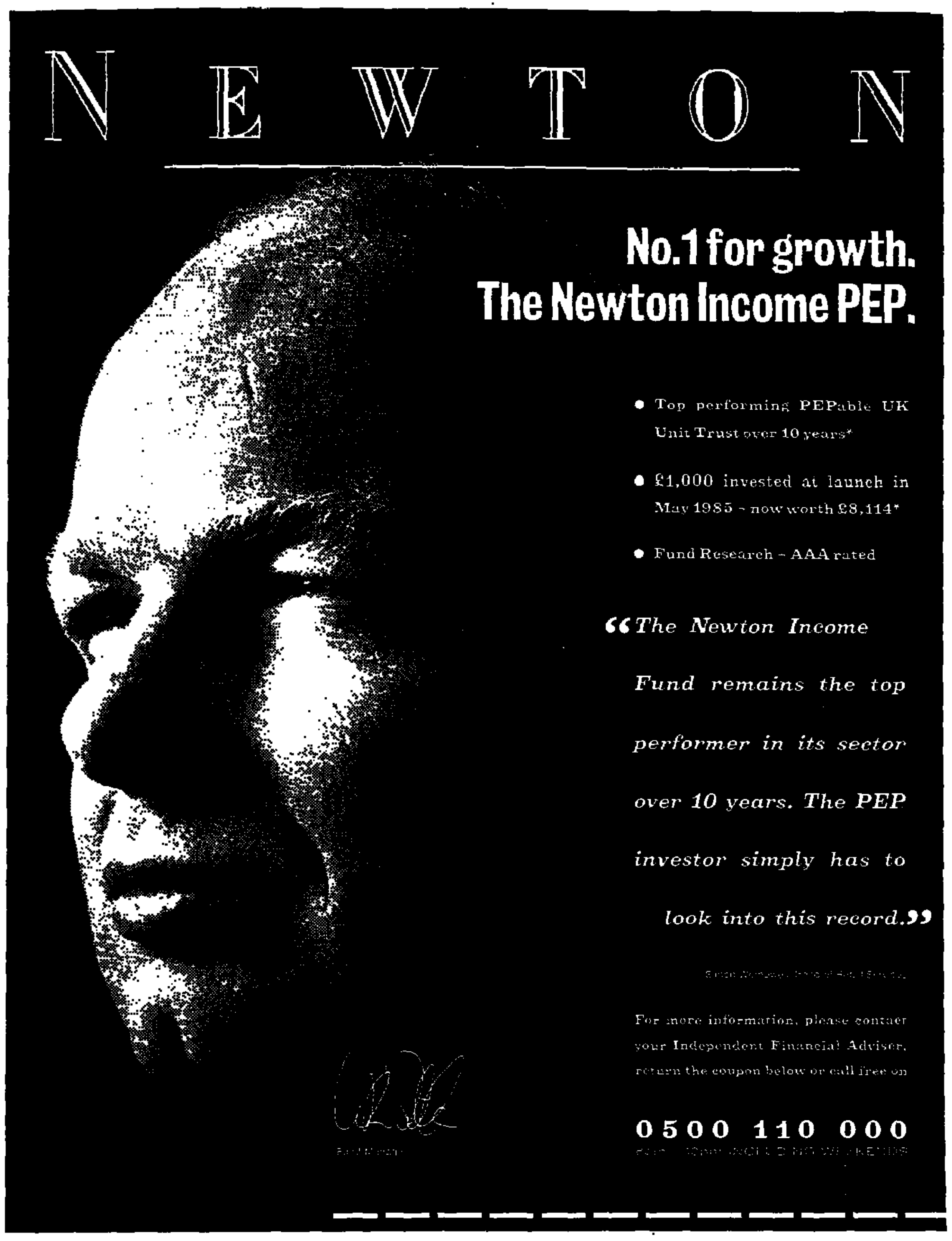

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*Source: Micropal, figures to 1/1/96. Launched 1/5/85. UK Growth and Income Sector. Offer-to-bid, gross income reinvested. 5 year performance: +120.16%. Prevailing tax levels and reliefs may change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Newton Fund Managers Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. A member of AUTIF.

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*Source: AITC Monthly Statistics to 31.12.95 share price total return, Scottish Mortgage Annual Report 1995 and NatWest Securities. Please note that information about past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance, and the price of shares may fall as well as rise. Investors may not get back the amount they invested. Tax reliefs on the PEP are those currently available and may change; the value of any tax relief depends on personal circumstances. This advert has been issued and approved by Baillie Gifford Savings Management Ltd (BGSM). BGSM are managers of the Baillie Gifford Investment Trust Savings Scheme and the Baillie Gifford PEP. BGSM is wholly owned by Baillie Gifford & Co, who are the managers and secretaries of The Scottish Mortgage & Trust Plc. BGSM & Baillie Gifford & Co are regulated by IMRO.

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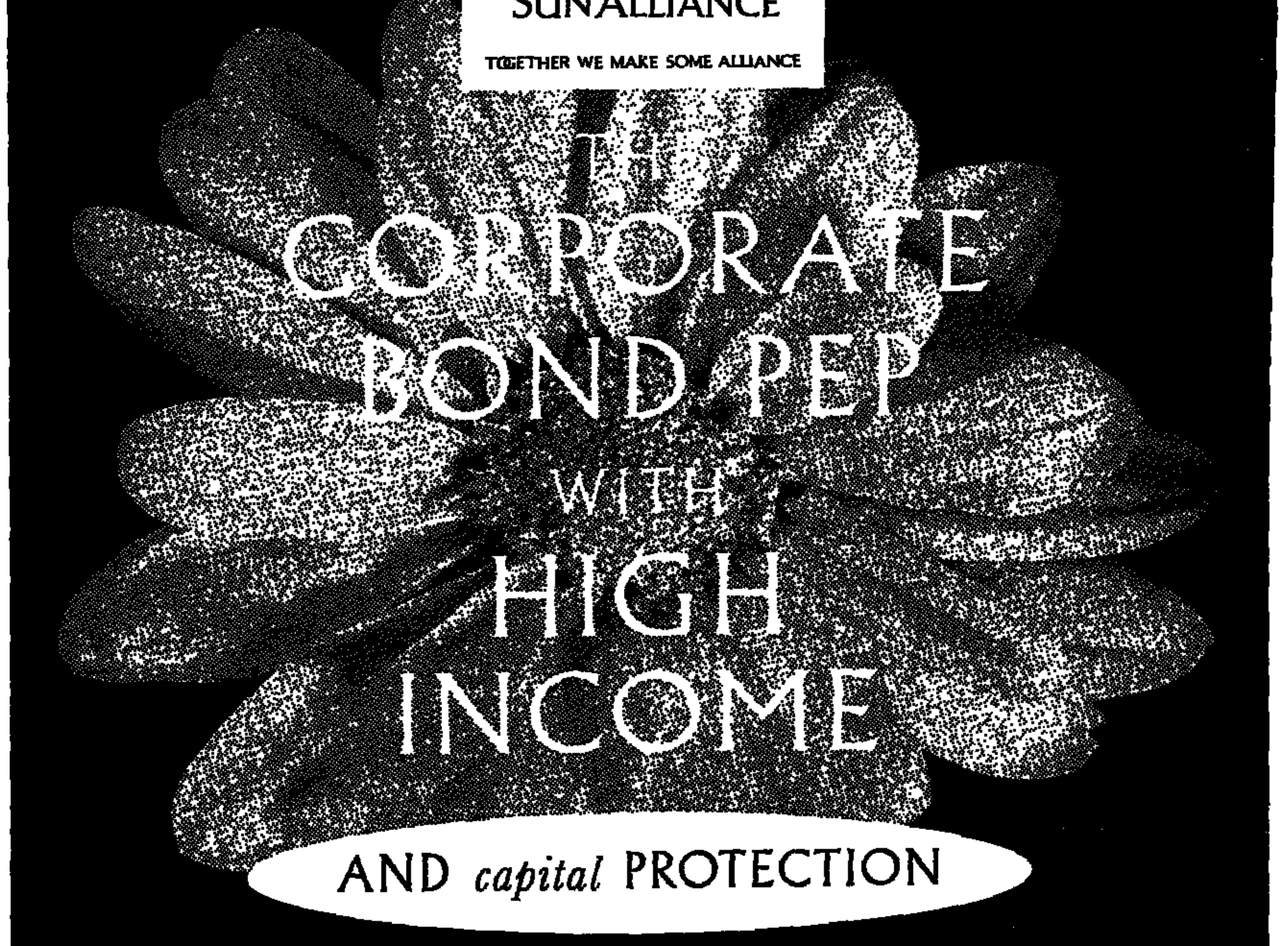

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PORTFOLIO

Better rates return to senders

Postal accounts come in and out of the market like ships into harbour, always leaving with a plentiful cargo.

Only a month after opening, Cheltenham & Gloucester's Direct 30 account has taken in as much money as it needs, so customers have to be quick if they want to get on board.

Interest rates, on average, are 1.5 per cent higher on postal accounts than their branch-based alternatives because of less expensive administrative costs. At present, 19 of 79 building societies provide postal accounts, although the number is increasing.

To make deposits, customers send their account book with a cheque, usually using prepaid stationery. Interest is added the day it arrives. Although there are instant-access accounts, most societies offer a range of 50-day, 60-day, and 90-day accounts that require a period of notice for withdrawals. Early withdrawals will incur penalties. The longer the withdrawal notice, the higher the interest rate. The longest term at the moment is 120 days offered by the Swansea and Chelsea Building Society.

Most societies offer a 24-hour turnround on transactions. C&G is one of the few that allows its customers to make withdrawals during working hours, or to deposit money over the counter. Both Northern Rock's Instant Access accounts allow customers to perform transactions at the branch as well.

Among the instant-access accounts on offer, Donna O'Shea, manager of Chase De Vere's Moneyline service, picks out West Bromwich Direct. At 6 per cent gross interest on £2,000, 6.25 per cent on £25,000, 6.5 per cent on £50,000, and 6.75 per cent on £100,000, West Bromwich is one of the highest payers. She also recommends Bristol & West Direct Savings at 5.55 per cent on £10,000, 5.75 per cent on £25,000, 5.8 per cent on £50,000, and 5.85 per cent on £100,000.

On average, interest rates are higher on postal accounts

Postal accounts are often used by customers who have enough in their bank account or high street building society for day-to-day living and seek a safe and financially sensible home for the rest. For smaller amounts, Miss O'Shea picks Yorkshire's First Class Access account at 5 per cent on £1,000, 5.1 per cent on £10,000, 5.2 per cent on £25,000, 5.45 per cent on £50,000, and 5.7 per cent on £100,000.

For investors prepared to lock their money away for a little longer, Miss O'Shea recommends Coventry's Postal 50 account offering an annual gross rate of 6 per cent on £10,000, 6.25 per cent on £25,000, and 6.5 on £40,000. For smaller amounts, she picks Scarborough's 75-day account at 6.3 per cent on £1,000.

Bradford & Bingley's new Direct 90 account also deserves a look, she says. Savers can choose whether to receive interest monthly or annually. They can earn 6.8 per cent gross per annum, or 6.6 per cent gross per month, on deposits between £15,000 and £29,999. They can earn 7.2 per cent gross per annum and 7 per cent gross per month on £30,000 and over.

Chase De Vere's Moneyline 0800 526091.

MORAG PRESTON

Rewards for loyal savers

IN AN attempt to benefit long-term loyal savers, the Nationwide Building Society increased its saving rates by an average of 0.25 per cent yesterday, at a time when mortgage rates are falling *(Morag Preston writes)*.

The loyalty bonus on Nationwide's Tessa 2, paid on maturity, has been increased from 1 per cent to 2 per cent. The interest rate, excluding bonus, has been increased from 6.6 per cent to 6.85 per cent.

The bonus on Nationwide's Bonus Saver, its regular savings account, has risen from 3 per cent to 3.25 per cent, and is payable to customers who save at least £20 a month for 11 of 12 consecutive months. The total rate, inclusive of bonus, has been increased by 0.35 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

The Bonus 60 account's annual bonus has risen from 0.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent, and the overall rate has increased by a minimum of 0.3 per cent. Bonuses are not payable if withdrawals are made during the calendar year. Nationwide's young-saver accounts now pay 3.5 per cent on deposits between £1-£4,999.

Funds for the millennium

Caroline Merrell looks for value amid the latest marketing ploys

With four years to go until the end of the century, many building societies are taking the opportunity to unveil "millennium bonds". These are fixed or variable-interest products which will come to maturity just before the year 2000.

However, do these bonds offer a good deal, or are they just marketing hype? Among the products on offer is a bond from the Birmingham Midshires Building Society.

This offers savers a four-year fixed-interest savings account, with the rate pegged at 7 per cent. The minimum investment in the bond is £5,000. Savers cannot touch the capital during the four-year period, but they can choose whether to take interest annually or monthly. Taking the monthly option means a lower income of 6.75 per cent.

The bond will be offered by the society until 26 April, 1996. Basic-rate taxpayers will get 5.6 per cent interest, while higher-rate tax payers will get 4.2 per cent.

National Savings has an equivalent five-year product which pays 5.6 per cent interest tax-free. If the bond is cashed in a year early, at the end of the century, for example, it will earn less interest — 4.76 per cent, making it a better deal for higher-rate tax payers than the Birmingham Midshires account.

Investing in a fixed-rate building society bond for only three years, rather than to the millennium can also give savers a better rate of interest. Bradford & Bingley, for instance, is offering a 7.8 per cent fixed-interest account, with a minimum investment of £10, while Bristol & West is offering an 8.3 per cent account, with a £5,000 minimum investment.

National & Provincial Building Society is offering a three-year bond which offers an interest rate of between 6 and 6.5 per cent depending on the amount of money invested. The net interest rate is between 4.5 and 4.87 per cent.

Another building society that is gearing up one of its accounts for those who are saving for the end of the century is the Ipswich Building Society. Minimum investment in the bond is £10,000 with a maximum of £75,000. However, the interest rate on this bond is variable and starts at 5.5 per cent for investments of between £10,000 and £25,000, rising to 6.5 per cent for investments of between £50,000 and £75,000.

According to John Whayman, managing director, the millennium bond "offers an attractive combination of high rates and withdrawal facilities. It is aimed particularly at those investors who wish to invest for a period but still have some access to their money. We are sure this combination will be very popular".

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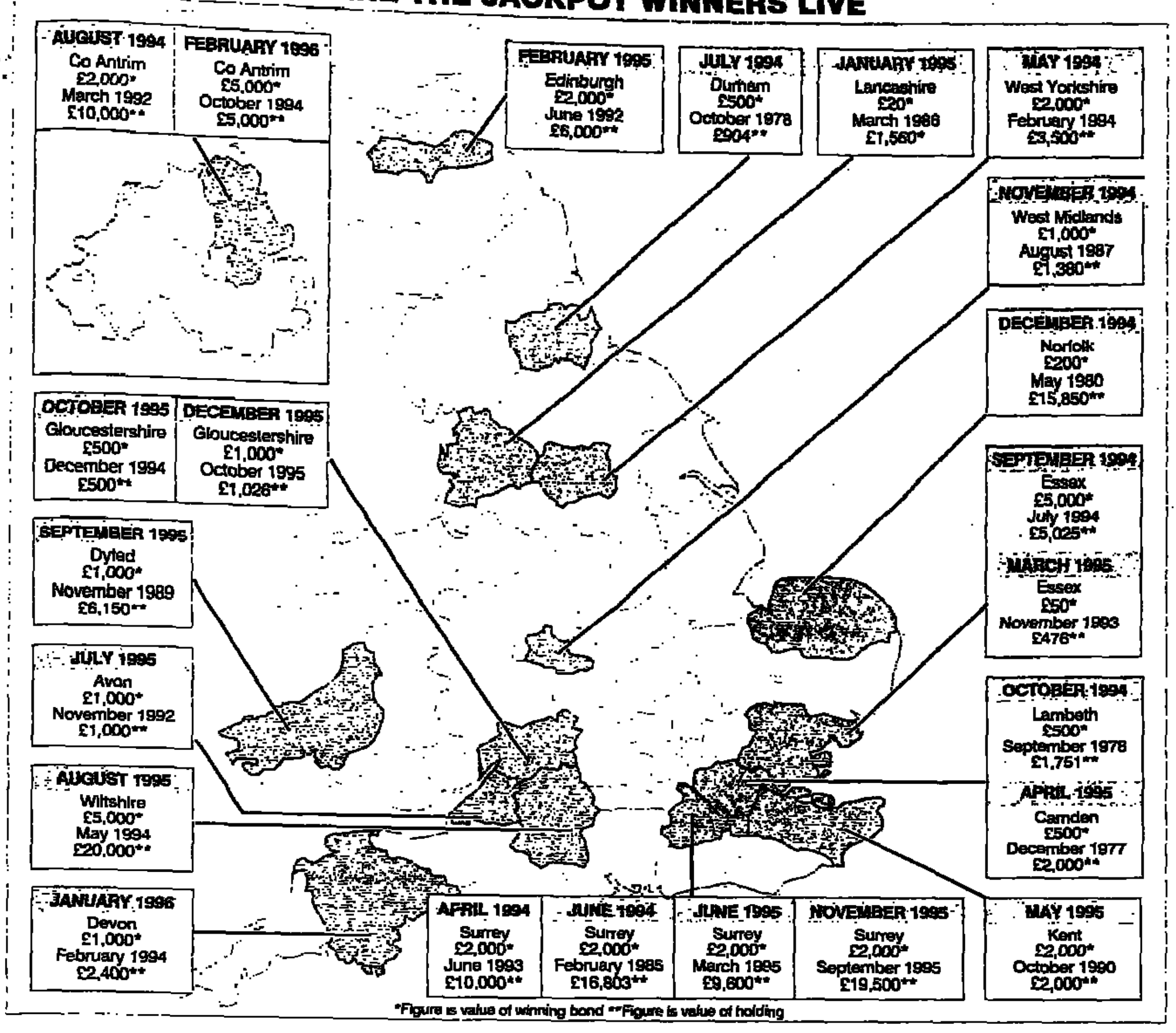

*Figure is value of winning bond **Figure is value of holding

Southern comfort from Ernie

An anonymous resident of Lincolnshire, the holder of Premium Bond number 31TS yesterday became the 24th Ernie millionaire.

The list of the 23 previous jackpot winners suggests that you stand the greatest chance of success if you live Surrey, which boasts four fortunate players, or Gloucestershire, which has three. These results would seem to support the widespread prejudice that Ernie has a Southern bias. But the Department for National Savings, Ernie's guardian, denies all such claims, pointing out that those who live south of the Watford Gap pick up prizes because they buy more Premium Bonds.

Those who cling to the belief that location determines Premium Bond luck will, however, conclude that there must be something in the water in both Surrey and Gloucestershire.

In September 1995, a Surrey resident who already held £17,500 worth of bonds bought a further £2,000 worth. In November, the first month in which these bonds became eligible for the draw, he or she scooped the jackpot.

Bonds go into the draw in the first full calendar month after purchase. In December 1995, a Gloucestershire resident became National Savings millionaire of the month, with a bond from a £1,000 parcel purchased in October.

This winner holds only a total of £1,026 bonds, giving the lie to another Premium Bond myth that only those who hold the maximum £20,000 worth of bonds have any chance of the jackpot.

Other modest-holding success stories include a Durham Ernie follower, the July 1994 millionaire of the month with a £904 stake.

In March 1995, an Essex inhabitant with a £476 holding opened the envelope bearing the £1m cheque. In October 1995, it was the turn again of a Gloucestershire holder, with £500 worth of bonds.

The £1 million prize, introduced to ensure that Ernie was not overshadowed by the National Lottery, has significantly boosted the popularity of Premium Bonds. Under the influence of the lottery, however, the Premium Bond prize structure is to be changed in the May draw, the first for which bonds bought this month will be eligible.

In response to public demand, the number of larger prizes will increase. At the same time, however, the total number of monthly prizes will be fixed at 350,000. The prize fund interest rate, the proportion of the total amount invested with Ernie Bonds which is paid out in prizes, will be decreased from 5.2 per cent to 4.75 per cent.

The odds will no longer be fixed but will vary in each draw. At present, each bond has a one in 15,000 chance of winning a prize.

ANNE ASHWORTH

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*Sources: Micropal, all UK equity invested unit trusts from 1.1.91 to 1.1.96, buying price to selling price, gross income reinvested on an initial investment of £3,000, then subsequent investments of £1,800 on 1.1.92, £1,800 on 1.1.93, £1,800 on 1.1.94 and £600 on 1.1.95. Median return £13,589. Schroder UK Enterprise Fund £17,794. Sunday Telegraph 7.1.96, average mature Tessa £11,877.

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MONEY SECTION

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Misrepresented whole-of-life policies account for 75 per cent of complaints

From Mr P. Kelly

Sir, In her article "Long-term savers with a bad case of delayed shock" (Weekend Money, February 24), Caroline Merrell highlighted a problem familiar to Spice — Society for Policyholders Issuing Complaints Effectively.

Complaints about whole-of-life policies, misrepresented as ten-year savings plans, account for over 75 per cent of the inquiries to Spice. There is much evidence to suggest that, at best, many insurers turned a blind eye to this practice and, at worst, actively encouraged and facilitated it. Insurers, by giving whole-of-life contracts titles such as "Capital Accumulators", disguised the true nature of these products, making it relatively easy for dishonest salespeople to cheat clients. Indeed, whole-of-life contracts make up an indecent proportion of the total policies sold by some insurers.

Anyone falling victim to such a scam should report the matter to the Personal Investment Authority. Under the PIA Omubudsman's voluntary scheme, even some pre-Act mis-sales can be dealt with. Those whose complaints fall outside the PIA's jurisdiction should consider taking legal action. Disputes involving amounts of £3,000 or less can be dealt with cheaply and quickly by some claims courts.

Yours sincerely,
PEARSE KELLY
(Chairman),
Spice,
53 Castlecaulfield Road,
Donaghmore,
Co Tyrone.

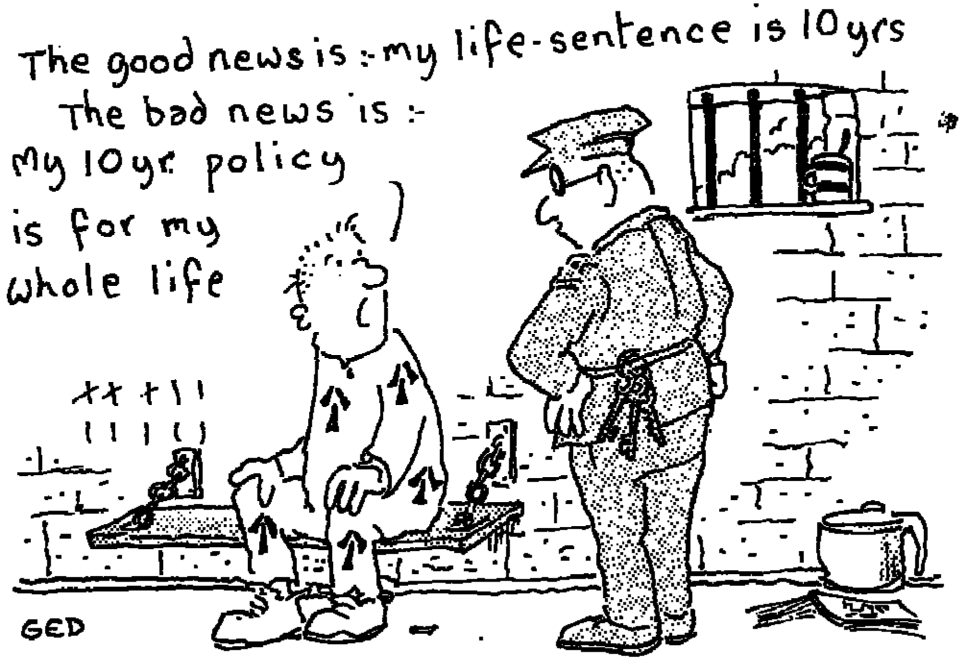
A bank where no customer relationships exist

From M. Diddams

Sir, On January 29, I made a transfer from my Midland Bank 90-day Exchequer account to my Midland Bank current account. As I had not given the requisite 90 days' notice, I was charged £40 early-withdrawal fee. Fair enough.

Today I went to my local Midland branch and asked for a balance on the Exchequer account. This was given to me on a tatty looking printout which ended with the words "No customer relationships exist". As I have banked with the Midland for the past 33 years, this came as a nasty surprise and prompts the question, how long does one have to bank with the Midland before being raised to the status of a customer and would this highly desired aspiration be speeded up if I became a bankrupt Tory MP?

Yours faithfully,
M. DIDDAMS,
21 Vincent Road,
Sittingbourne,
Kent.



How Pep charges are levied matters

From Mr W. Cound

Sir, Weekend Money Guide 3 (February 10) draws attention to the effect on the average Pep of management charges. Investors should also be aware of the method of levying the charge. *If* the charge is levied on the capital then this will gradually reduce the number of units available to produce income in subsequent years. It is like digging up a few trees each year rather than having a share of the crop.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM COUND,
8 Orchard Rise,
Olney, Bucks.

Why we need to champion the small investor against friendly societies

From Mr C. Brabbins

Sir, I was delighted to read Caroline Merrell's article (Weekend Money, February 17) where she championed the cause of the small investor against the companies who hide behind the name of "friendly society".

In January 1986 my wife and I took out a double-plan with Homeowners Friendly Society and for the next ten years fed £200 each January into this plan. The 1986 sales literature projected a return of £5,560 after ten years.

This ten-year period has been one of the best for investment and yet all we received from them was actually £3,231.

I had expected to receive their cheque on February 1, having entered into a definitive ten year contract, but in the event, had to phone Homeowners Friendly Society and insist on travelling the thirty miles to Harrogate to collect the money in person.

Their charges in the final year were 8.54% and they have refused to provide me with a record of their previous charges between 1986 and 1995.

However, in travelling to Harrogate I noted their opulent headquarters. They also sponsor horse races at York.

In my opinion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer should relieve them of their so-called special status.

Yours faithfully,
C. BRABBINS,
13 Ashwood Grove,
Horbury, Wakefield.

When delay in receiving Tessa certificate is a matter of interest for all concerned

From Mrs T. P. Colwell

Sir, I read with interest articles in *The Times* regarding Halifax "bungling" interest calculations on matured Tessas and the delay in the issue of maturity certificates. I note that Michael Grey (Weekend Money, February 17) complained of a 13-day delay.

I wonder if anyone has beaten my record. My Halifax Tessa matured on January 23, yet I did not receive my certificate until February 16. I had to visit my branch and demand to see the manager. That was on February 13. He apologised, admitted it was his branch's mistake and promised that as soon as I received my maturity certificate he would contact me regarding lost interest. I have not heard from him to date. What do you think is adequate compensation for a 24-day delay? I had invested the full amount and the amount realised was £11,977.66.

I had also requested Halifax to advise me of what interest I had lost for starting my Tessa on January 23 instead of January 2. They replied by saying: "I would also advise you that the equivalent interest you have lost on your Tessa by not investing from January 2, 1991, is £25.32". I did ask the branch manager how this equates to the maximum of £12,050 that a Halifax Tessa should have. He told me it would all work out on compound interest! Do you understand that?

Yours faithfully,
MRS T. P. COLWELL,
18 Concord Avenue,
Chatham, Kent.

When it pays not to surrender policy

From Mr J. Arthurs

Sir, I read with interest the article in Weekend Money, February 24, on Eagle Star's abysmal surrender rates on endowment policies. Last week, I decided to surrender my policy after nine years into a 17-year plan. I was appalled at the quoted rate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ARTHURS,
19 Lamberts Field,
Bourton-on-the-water,
Gloucestershire.

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6 out of 6 funds are in the top 25% of their sectors for their performance over 5 years. Positions are to 1st February 1996 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested.

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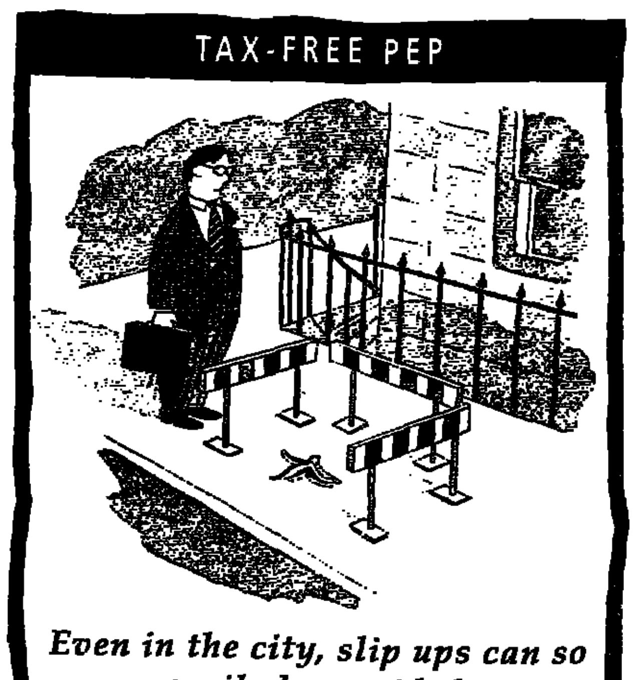

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هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Revenue guides to self-assessment

The Inland Revenue has published several guides explaining self-assessment, the new tax system. A general guide, aimed at everyone who regularly completes a tax return, offers advice on how to complete the forms, plus the general principles of self-assessment. The booklet says that from April 1996, all taxpayers are lawfully obliged to keep records of income and capital gains and individuals will be responsible for their own tax affairs. A special guide and video, *Get Yourself Sorted!*, is available for the self-employed. An outline of the changes affecting employers from 1996-97 can also be obtained. Call the Revenue response line on 0345 161514.

■ Barclays is launching three personal taxation services designed to help taxpayers to cope with the Revenue's changes in tax assessment. From April 6, a telephone-based service, a 24-hour information service and a tax management service will be available to deal with tax concerns.

■ Help with self-assessment is also available in a booklet from KPMG tax advisers. The guide offers essential information on planning for the changes and explains how self-assessment will apply to non-UK residents. Write to KPMG, 8 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8BB, price £6.

■ *Perfect Personal Finance* suggests the best way to approach money management, tackling topics such as budgeting and inflation. The 80-page book reveals how to balance savings and expenditure and how at least £1,000 a year can be saved with effective personal planning. The book will be published on March 28, priced at £5.99.

■ The Royal Bank of Scotland is launching a new bank to incorporate its existing offshore business. The Royal Bank of Scotland International will offer a 24-hour offshore telephone banking service. For more details, call 01534 285576.

■ Crest, the electronic share system, comes into operation on July 15, allowing faster and more secure settlement. Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie, the stockbroker and portfolio manager, has published a free guide explaining Crest and its implications for shareholders. Call 0171 248 4400.

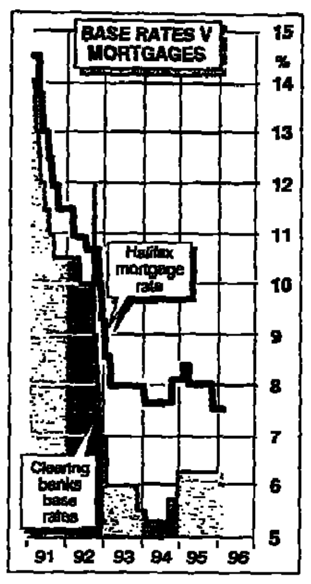
LIZANNE ROSE

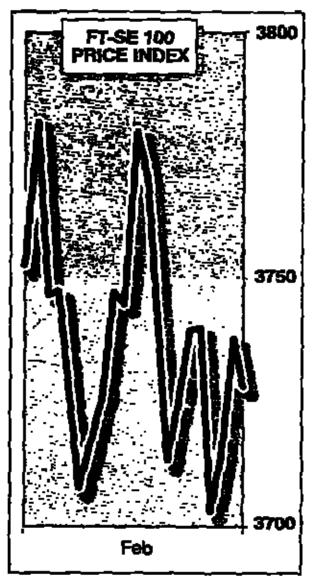
SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01202 292444	Instant Acc	Instant	£100	4.80	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£2,000	6.00	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£25,000	6.25	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£50,000	6.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Manchester BS 0161 834 9465	45 Day	45 Day	£25,000	6.55	Yly
Bradford & Bingley 0345 248248	Direct 90	90 Day p	£15,000	6.80	Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0116 2717272	Prime 90 Depost	90 Day	£25,000	7.10	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 Day	£5,000	6.50	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 Year	£9,000	7.30	F/Yly
Allied Trust Bank 0171 6260879		5 Year	£9,000	7.25	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505		5 Year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 Year	£25	7.25	Yly





CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.94%G	12.10%	Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	14.90%E	£114.41	£102.59
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33

Nb. A = 2% bonus if Account opened by 30.4.96, C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Fleming base rate, OM denotes interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)

NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* ₃	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500**	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ₆	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond₄	6.25	4.68	3.75	1,000-20,000**		01416362558
43rd Issue Certt₂₃	5.35			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bondt	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	01416362636
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond₅ ₆	6.65	4.98	3.99	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
9th Index Linkedt₃	2.50			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S3 ₆	7.00	5.25	4.20	500-50,000₆	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₃Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁴0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁶Taxable but cred in full. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart * ....Level	£10,128	£11,183	£12,297
Prudential..............Level	£10,159	£11,180	£12,556
Royal Life ....Level	£10,034	£11,165	£12,699
Canada Lfe ....Level	£9,915	£11,087	£12,675
Stndrd Lfe ....Level	£9,956	£11,024	£12,416

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Royal Life ....Level	£9,305	£10,138	£11,364
Prudential ....Level	£9,401	£10,138	£11,219
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£9,230	£9,970	£11,063
Stalwart * ....Level	£9,095	£9,928	£10,992
Canada Life ....Level	£9,083	£9,927	£11,161

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Stalwart * ....Level	£8,990	£9,651	£10,420
Prudential ....Level	£9,020	£9,603	£10,426
Royal Life ....Level	£8,849	£9,488	£10,401
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£8,855	£9,429	£10,249
Equitble Lfe..........Level	£8,853	£9,374	£10,093
Canada Life ....Level	£8,668	£9,329	£10,266

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at February 29, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	4.85
	20,000	AIG Life	4.95
	50,000	AIG Life	5.10
2 Years			
	5,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.25
	20,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.35
	50,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.50
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.50
	5,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.50
	20,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.60
	50,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.75
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.70
	5,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.75
	20,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.85
	50,000	Fncial Assrnce	6.00
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.00
	3,000	Fncial Assrnce	6.20
	20,000	Abbey Life	6.40
	50,000	Abbey Life	6.60

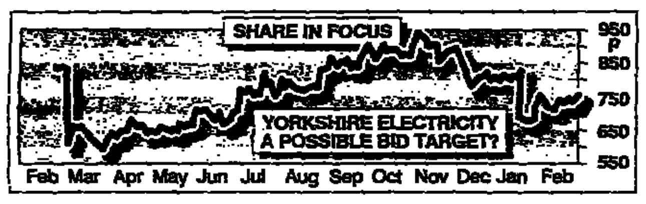
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	97.29	9.626	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	119.48	9.719	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	133.52	9.718	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	137.30	9.724	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	132.06	9.829	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	124.31	9.733	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	113.90	10.308	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	92.77	9.423	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	124.46	9.450	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	143.13	9.495	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	136.49	9.782	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	113.72	9.441	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	133.53	9.439	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	135.56	9.294	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	134.37	9.565	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/03-20/09)	9.30000%	100.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Rate fixed to 31.1.97
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.19	to £100k	90	6.25% discount to 1.5.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.39	to £150k	95	6% disc-6 mths, 2% disc-18 mths
Banks				
Midland 0800 494999	4.49	to £49,999	95	3% discount for 1 year
Nat West 0800 400999	1.99	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Rate fixed to 30.11.96
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.35	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	to £150k	70	Rate fixed for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.75%dsc-6 mth, 3% dsc-6 mth
Nat West 0800 400999	2.49	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 12 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	95	6.54% dsc-6 mths, 2.50% disc-6 mths
Halifax 01422 333333	2.49	none	95	5% discount to 30.4.97
Brad & Bingley 01274 555555	3.44	£30k+	95	3.80% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.75% discount for 6 months
TSB 0500 758000	3.75	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	524.40	555.00	- 0.70	...
UK Equity	659.50	696.90	+ 0.20	...
Property	517.80	548.00	- 0.70	...
Fixed Interest	356.50	377.30	+ 0.40	...
Money	262.50	277.80	+ 0.10	...
International	466.50	493.70	- 3.10	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	187.00	196.90	- 0.50	...
Ethical S4	150.30	158.30	+ 0.40	...
International S4	216.60	228.00	+ 0.20	...
Protected Gth S4	119.90	126.30	- 0.10	...
Asian Pac S4	217.80	229.30	- 1.10	...
European S4	198.90	209.40	+ 1.70	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.60	394.40	+ 0.30	...
Equity Ser 4	256.50	270.10	- 0.20	...
Man Ser 4	749.60	789.10	+ 1.00	...
Conv Ser 4	344.20	362.40	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	343.90	362.00	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	370.50	390.00	- 1.10	...
American Ser 4	605.50	637.40	- 1.70	...
High Inc Ser 4	773.30	814.00	- 0.70	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	221.10	232.80	- 2.70	...
Japan Ser 4	363.20	382.40	- 0.30	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1777.60	1871.10	+ 1.30	...
European Fd Acc	427.60	450.10	+ 2.00	...
Fixed Int Acc	540.50	568.90	-15.90	...
Gtd Money Acc	350.80	369.20	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	690.50	726.80	+ 2.00	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	361.70	380.70	+ 0.60	...
Japan Fund	266.00	279.90	+ 0.30	...
N American Acc	391.80	412.40	- 0.90	...
Prop Fd Acc	456.00	480.00	+ 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1158.70	1219.80	+ 0.50	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	391.70	412.40	+ 0.40	...
Equity Acc	1640.00	1726.40	+ 6.40	...
Property Acc	612.30	644.60	+ 0.80	...
Far East Acc	349.10	367.50	- 0.20	...
Managed Capital	595.30	626.70	+ 1.50	...
-do- Acc	1251.40	1317.30	+ 3.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	219.20	231.90	+ 3.80	...
Euro Opportunity	247.90	262.30	+ 2.80	...
North Amer Opp	210.20	222.40	- 0.70	...
Far East Opp	223.80	236.80	- 1.00	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	160.20	168.60	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	197.10	208.50	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int	212.30	224.60	- 0.30	...
Cash	165.40	175.00	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	233.80	247.50	- 1.40	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	397.80	418.80	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	663.00	697.90	+ 9.50	...
Property	267.40	281.50	+ 0.70	...
Money Market	263.90	277.80	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	313.40	329.90	- 1.70	...
Japan	364.00	383.20	+ 0.70	...
North America	194.80	205.10	- 0.50	...
International	373.50	393.20	- 2.30	...
European	324.80	341.90	+ 3.90	...
Far East	161.20	169.70	- 0.80	...
CANADA LIFE 24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth 1	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	376.40	396.30	+ 0.40	...
Property	249.30	262.50	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	256.70	270.30	- 1.10	...
Equity	429.90	452.60	+ 1.20	...
Cash	225.70	237.60	+ 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	439.70	462.90	+ 5.00	...
CLife Intl Fd	407.50	429.00	+ 0.50	...
Managed Fund	813.90	856.30	+ 3.60	...
Property Fund	519.30	546.60	...	...
Equity Fund	1080.30	1137.20	+ 7.10	...
Gilt Edged Fd	658.60	693.30	- 2.90	...
Deposit Fund	351.30	369.80	...	...
Investment Fd	461.30	484.40	+ 3.50	...
International	629.00	662.10	+ 3.00	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	166.30	175.10	+ 2.70	...
Managed Fund	712.50	750.00	+ 0.10	...
Equity Fund	413.00	434.80	- 0.80	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	329.00	346.40	- 0.30	...
Ruby	198.10	208.60	...	...
Emerald	152.90	161.00	- 1.10	...

UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grofund Amer	206.80	218.90	− 1.20	0.22
Grofund Equity	275.60	293.40	− 0.10	1.91
Grofund Euro	262.40	277.70	+ 3.80	0.60
Grofund Expt Bal	130.60	135.30	. . .	5.02
Grofund Gilt	76.01	78.36	− 0.16	5.22
Grofund Japan	177.30	187.60	+ 0.20	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	637.60	678.30	+ 2.30	2.58
General Inc	547.70	582.70	+ 1.90	2.58
UK Growth Acc	432.80	460.30	+ 1.50	2.79
UK Growth Inc	288.20	306.70	+ 1.00	2.79
Higher Inc Acc	787.60	837.90	+ 1.50	4.16
Higher Inc Inc	438.20	466.20	+ 0.80	4.16
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	205.30	216.80	− 0.70	5.56
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.23	97.41	− 2.59	5.56
Nth America	357.80	380.70	− 3.30	
Europe	344.00	366.00	+ 4.90	0.51
Brit Excell	85.90	91.39	+ 0.27	2.84
Brit Fedntls Acc	114.30	121.70	− 0.30	4.69
Brit Fedntls Inc	80.13	85.25	− 0.12	4.69
Global Opps	99.92	106.30	+ 0.20	0.44
Balanced Acc	62.28	66.26	+ 0.05	2.65
Balanced Inc	59.59	63.40	+ 0.04	2.66
Japan Acc	46.97	49.97	− 0.05	.
Pac Basin Acc	424.40	451.50	− 1.40	0.72
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	128.30	136.10†	− 2.40	7.35
High Inc Equity	179.80	192.30	+ 0.10	4.38
Worldwide Bond	288.70	306.00†	+ 0.20	4.58
American Growth	356.00	381.00	− 3.20	0.73
Asian Pacific	349.00	373.30	− 2.38	0.22
Assets & Earnings	300.50	319.70	+ 2.10	2.73
Euro Capital Acc	172.60	184.50	+ 1.90	0.56
Extra Inc	44.28	47.11†	− 0.03	8.53
General	272.70	290.10†		2.87
Global Opps	64.66	68.79	+ 0.51	0.44
Japan	125.90	134.70	− 0.20	.
Managed Inc	47.83	50.99†	+ 0.04	4.56
Mastertrust	163.60	175.00	+ 0.80	1.35
US Emerging Cos	191.60	203.80	+ 5.10	
Ethical	77.71	82.67	+ 0.39	2.53
International	135.50	144.20	+ 0.50	0.78
Dividend & Growth	67.07	71.35	+ 0.17	4.30
Global Grwth & Sec	71.86	76.76	− 0.02	2.55
Latin America	58.98	62.74	− 1.56	
Capital Reserve	141.20	141.30	+ 0.30	4.95
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Co.	2094.00	2178.00	+ 8.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.24	60.48	− 1.15	0.51
Emerging Mkts	72.45	76.79	− 0.52	0.04
European	143.00	148.70†	+ 1.70	
Exempt	1008.50	1076.70	− 1.00	1.73
Extra Income #	46.80	50.32†	− 1.17	6.76
Far East Emg Eco	133.70	140.40	+ 0.70	0.45
Fixed Interest #	23.73	24.68†	+ 0.06	9.52
Fund Inv Tst	157.00	164.60	− 1.40	9.44
Japan	186.50	193.90	+ 0.20	
Latin American	53.50	56.92	− 1.63	0.87
Pacific	87.94	92.34	− 0.92	0.78
Property Share	63.23	66.38	− 0.04	2.64
UK Emerging Cos	69.60	74.84	+ 0.22	1.65
UK Growth	50.97	53.91	− 0.31	2.18
New World Port #	81.78	83.34	+ 0.25	1.93
Ethical	75.81	78.84	.	2.24
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.14	50.14†	− 0.73	7.49
For AEGON see Manesson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5858				
Resdtl Property	94.23	101.20†	+ 0.10	5.10
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	85.45	90.66†	− 0.76	2.20
Income Builder Inc	78.18	83.17	+ 0.63	2.84
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	270.70	289.30	+ 1.70	3.21
Capital	478.70	511.70	+ 4.20	1.23
Balanced	781.90	835.80†	+ 5.10	2.49
Accumulator	1492.00	1594.00	+ 8.00	1.96
Income Trusts				
American Income	59.45	63.48†	− 0.89	2.52
High Income	434.90	464.90†	− 5.40	4.07
Equity Income	245.40	262.30	+ 1.30	4.03
High Yield	266.60	284.90	+ 1.50	4.10
Govt Securities	34.16	36.05	− 0.07	6.06
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	203.60	217.30	− 0.10	0.05
European Growth	48.65	51.84	+ 0.36	0.08
International	188.90	201.90†	− 0.80	0.11
Japan	204.70	218.80	− 1.40	.
Pacific	432.50	462.40	+ 0.30	
Secs of America	559.50	596.20	− 11.20	0.13
Wrlwde Asset Val	55.58	59.41†	− 0.02	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	595.80	636.90	+ 3.60	1.58
Conv & Gilt	46.13	49.31†	+ 0.44	4.40
Smaller Cos	197.90	211.50	+ 3.40	1.06
2nd Smaller Cos	188.30	201.20†	+ 3.30	0.92
Recovery	160.90	172.00	+ 1.10	1.64
Met Min & Cdty	177.00	189.20	+ 1.70	0.16
Oseas Earnings	403.10	430.90	+ 2.20	1.17
Technology	215.40	230.20†	− 4.60	
UK Special Sits	552.40	590.50†	+ 3.30	1.06
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	114.90	119.30	− 0.60	3.04
Foundtn Persl Pens	68.77	71.44	− 0.43	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	80.08	85.19	+ 0.88	1.73
International	70.50	75.00	+ 0.59	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	327.00	350.20	+ 1.70	.
Bond	115.90	122.00†	− 1.30	6.89
Brit Smlr Cos	116.00	123.40†	+ 1.40	1.65
Conv & Gen #	70.12	74.60†	+ 0.09	5.31
Europe	263.60	280.30	+ 4.40	0.59
Euro Smlr Cos	119.00	127.00	+ 1.60	0.62
Income Grwth	373.90	397.80	− 4.60	3.84
Japan	324.70	346.50	+ 2.40	. .
Latin American	78.93	83.97	− 2.32	0.93
Pacific	119.90	127.60	− 0.40	1.14
UK Smllr Cos	59.14	62.91†	+ 0.69	1.28
Japan Fd	874.10	885.10†	− 4.40	
Mngd Fd	198.00	210.30	+ 1.20	2.82
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	365.70	386.80	− 0.80	0.93
Capital Gwth	125.40	132.60	+ 0.60	2.47
Wwide Opps	225.20	238.30	+ 1.60	0.86
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bltsl Inv Fd Inc	406.20	423.10	.	2.38
European Bd Inc	94.13	97.43†	+ 0.08	6.76
Exempt	80.02	85.36	− 0.26	3.92
Financial	96.64	103.40	+ 0.40	2.30
500	486.20	525.60†	+ 0.90	2.58
General	312.70	334.80	− 0.60	2.45
Property	240.20	257.70†	− 0.90	6.48
Trustee	214.60	229.50	+ 0.10	2.29
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.80	100.80	+ 0.10	5.58
Extra Income #	134.00	143.30	+ 0.40	4.74
Inc Manager Pep	58.81	58.82†	− 0.47	8.30
Income #	575.90	615.90†	+ 1.20	4.65
Income Builder #	67.94	72.47†	+ 0.17	5.44
Intl Income	70.77	75.29	+ 0.12	2.95
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	134.00	143.00†	− 0.30	2
Leisure	163.00	174.40	− 0.10	1.03
Recovery	473.10	506.00	+ 1.80	2.63
Smlls Cos Inc	52.10	55.87	+ 0.32	2.20
Special Sits	359.10	384.10	− 0.10	1.34
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	168.10	178.80	− 2.40	0.27
Aust Acc	288.80	306.60	+ 13.10	1.97
Aust Inc	172.90	184.80	+ 7.90	1.97
Euro Gwth Inc	180.10	191.10	+ 1.80	0.62
-do- Accum	194.50	206.40	+ 2.00	0.62
Japan & Gen Inc	161.30	170.70	+ 0.50	
-do- Accum	163.10	172.70	+ 0.50	.
Japan Spec Sits	72.36	76.85	− 0.09	. .
Worldwide	194.80	206.80	− 0.90	0.62
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	126.00	133.10	− 2.70	.
Amer Smlr Cos	158.30	169.30	+ 0.50	
Convertibles	58.08	62.22	+ 0.25	4.90
Eastern	324.90	350.60	− 4.50	0.30
Equity Income	93.03	99.51†	+ 1.02	3.80
European Growth	354.80	376.90	+ 7.50	0.80
Europe	312.40	332.80	+ 4.70	1.90
German Growth	88.82	91.79	− 0.53	0.50
Global Bond	69.69	73.34†	+ 0.15	6.50
Global Growth	147.30	156.90	− 0.70	0.40
Japan Growth	205.80	219.60	+ 0.20	
Japan Sunrise	165.20	175.80	− 1.50	.
Korea Trust	74.75	82.06	− 2.17	
Portfolio	142.60	152.80†	+ 0.30	2.30
-do- Accum	267.00	286.10	+ 0.50	2.30
UK Growth	94.43	101.70	+ 0.90	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	87.42	95.23	+ 0.74	2.50
Select Managers	86.96	93.18	+ 0.23	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	89.15	94.84†	+ 0.45	
Special Oppor Inc	62.07	66.03†	+ 0.08	
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	129.63	137.18	− 0.26	1.34
-do- Accum	148.33	158.96	− 0.29	1.34
Smaller Cos	135.70	143.60	+ 0.53	0.72
Higher Yield #	52.64	55.71†	− 0.08	4.19
American Gth Inc	94.74	100.25†	− 1.47	. . .
European Growth	155.34	164.38	+ 2.31	0.09
-do- Accum	158.40	167.62	+ 2.35	0.09
Global Bond Inc #	27.30	28.29	− 0.14	7.01
Mngd Ptflo Inc	50.44	53.36	− 0.15	1.33
-do- Accum	51.73	54.72	− 0.15	1.33
Intl Spec Opps	153.79	162.75	− 1.11	. .
Pacific Grth	153.44	162.37	− 1.67	0.22
UK General #	87.62	92.61	− 0.15	3.00
-do- Accum #	92.13	97.50	− 0.15	3.00
Japan	59.84	63.32†	− 0.37	. .
Gilt & Fixed Int #	98.46	102.04†	− 0.62	8.14
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7218				
Short Dated Gilt	64.51	65.34†	− 3.40	6.50
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	178.90	190.30	+ 0.60	1.88
UK Growth	195.20	207.60†	+ 0.20	1.99
UK Income	145.60	154.90	− 0.30	4.27
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	225.50	239.00†	+ 1.20	1.68
-do- Income Dist	122.20	128.50	+ 0.30	3.86
-do- Accum	384.80	407.70	+ 1.00	3.86
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.37	42.42†	− 0.11	6.41
Growth Units	239.80	256.20	+ 2.00	2.00
Bond	170.90	180.30	− 0.80	7.40
Intl Growth	247.10	262.90	+ 1.70	0.17
North American	246.60	262.40	− 4.20	0.24
Far East	324.30	346.80	+ 0.70	0.09
UK Smaller Cos	211.00	225.70	+ 3.30	1.04
European	96.08	101.80	+ 0.80	0.56
Japanese Growth	48.52	51.56	+ 0.12	.
High Income	216.60	231.50	+ 1.50	3.90
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7480 Dlg 0161 831 7485				
American & Gen	204.60	217.50	− 7.80	. .
European Inc	92.56	98.60	+ 1.31	0.73
Smaller Cos (4-1)	96.98	103.18†	+ 0.08	1.41
Growth	505.00	537.30†	+ 7.60	1.78
Income & Growth #	448.80	477.50†	.	3.83
-do- Accum #	663.40	705.80	. .	3.83
Japan & Gen	69.98	74.28	+ 0.26	
Master Portfolio	£113.51	£117.15†	+ 50.00	2.10
-do- Accum	£138.28	£142.72	+ 61.00	2.10
Special Sits	117.50	125.10	+ 0.90	1.83
High Yield	£14.63	£15.09	+ 8.00	4.28

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.70	104.16	+ 0.03	2.47
American Portfolio	117.73	125.07	− 1.72	0.91
European Portfolio	124.41	132.46	+ 1.09	0.44
High Income	50.78	50.88†	− 0.08	7.89
Japanese Portfolio	69.11	73.47†	+ 0.01	.
Pacific Portfolio	161.36	173.51	− 0.05	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	93.33	98.73	+ 0.14	2.86
Utility & Bond	58.16	58.85	+ 0.20	6.54
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	737.60	748.74	− 5.74	4.30
Fxd In Sec	155.63	156.25	− 0.58	9.15
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	733.53	744.81	− 2.51	4.35
Investment Acc	£32.71	£33.21	− 11.18	. . .
Fixed Int Inc	126.24	126.74	− 1.15	9.07
Fixed Int Acc	214.76	215.62	− 1.94	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	90.35	95.30	− 0.26	3.12
Beck Bio-Tech	49.92	53.79	.	
Acorn Ethical Tst	171.82	180.43	+ 0.63	0.60
City Fin Assets	78.02	81.93	+ 1.88	2.04
City Fin America	115.54	121.33	+ 3.75	. .
City Fin Intl	93.88	98.58	+ 1.63	0.81
City Fin Japan	150.99	158.52	+ 0.66	
Friars Hse Cap	306.27	325.82†	+ 5.05	2.30
Friars Hse Inc	200.99	213.82	− 0.58	4.16
Buckley Wrld Grth	145.75	159.29	+ 1.07	. . .
Fairmnt Cap Gth	151.44	159.41	+ 1.22	.
Fairmount Intl	162.94	171.52	+ 1.88	.
J Sal Inc/Gth Inc	57.18	60.04	− 1.37	1.57
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admn: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.10	62.71†	− 0.26	. .
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	77.50	82.45	− 0.23	. .
Dragon Growth	75.48	80.72	− 0.47	0.41
Equity High Inc	90.01	95.76†	− 0.69	4.12
-do- Accum	126.70	134.79†	− 0.02	4.12
Extra Income Inc	26.09	27.47	− 0.19	7.61
Extra Income Acc	27.48	29.93	− 0.20	7.61
European Gwth	61.35	65.09	+ 0.30	0.98
Evergreen	29.95	32.03	− 0.14	.
General Equity	98.38	104.38	− 0.08	2.91
Japan Growth	51.40	54.68	− 0.03	.
Pedigree Gwth	59.71	63.52	+ 0.28	2.59
Ped Smr Cos Inc	35.31	37.56	+ 0.24	1.49
-do- Accum	37.18	39.55	+ 0.26	1.49
Retirement Inc #	27.67	29.43†	− 0.55	5.92
Special Sits	44.91	47.78	+ 0.15	1.95
UK & Overseas	58.10	61.64	− 0.06	0.74
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	66.90	69.92	+ 0.27	4.04
Capital	79.76	82.97	+ 0.43	1.83
High Income	50.03	52.04	− 0.47	7.28
Top 50	53.52	55.68	+ 0.14	2.19
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	181.49	193.07	+ 0.27	4.53
Fixed & Convertible	40.86	43.47	− 0.08	6.69
Monthly Inc Plus	48.56	51.66	− 0.63	8.87
Preference Share	46.35	49.31	− 0.35	7.71
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	134.02	142.57	− 0.26	5.70
Managed Fund	75.94	80.79	+ 0.23	2.81
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	46.73	49.71	+ 0.39	1.63
-do- Accum	54.40	57.87	+ 0.47	1.63
UK & General	91.92	97.79	+ 0.23	2.61
-do- Accum	117.97	125.50	+ 0.29	2.61
UK Growth	173.52	184.60	− 0.49	2.19
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	211.01	224.48	+ 3.12	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	142.72	151.83	− 0.05	
Global Bond	84.70	90.03	+ 0.10	5.87
Japan Growth	117.45	124.95	+ 0.19	.
Nrth Amer Grth	225.46	239.85	− 4.19	
Oriental Growth	88.39	94.03	− 0.37	0.06
Worldwide Growth	74.46	79.21	− 0.24	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.25	93.26	+ 0.08	5.55
Homemaker Fund	90.58	96.36†	− 0.12	1.57
Outlier Fund	150.57	160.18†	+ 0.57	1.95
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	34.13	36.55†	+ 0.17	3.39
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	175.60	186.80	+ 0.30	1.24
Income	71.39	75.95†	+ 0.49	5.10
European	71.96	76.55	+ 1.06	0.45
Recovery	170.20	181.10	+ 3.70	1.54
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 383 9494				
Equity Dist	934.60	949.40	− 1.30	3.61
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	99.46	105.80	+ 0.40	1.42
Income #	278.30	296.00	+ 0.20	4.04
-do- Accum #	713.70	759.20	+ 0.60	4.04
Smaller Cos	212.80	226.38†	+ 1.50	1.01
-do- Accum	263.00	279.70	+ 1.80	1.01
Inv Portfolio	96.17	102.30†	+ 0.10	1.66
High Inc Port #	79.78	84.87	− 0.19	4.20
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1656.60	1710.80	+ 26.90	
Japan Small Cos.	1281.30	1285.80	− 0.50	. .
UK Small Cos	2013.60	2087.10	+ 12.50	.
US Small Cos	2040.10	2081.69	+ 31.40	.
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	222.90	234.60	.	3.01
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	319.80	337.80	+ 6.10	0.63
New Asia	249.60	268.20	− 1.80	0.22
Japan Growth	113.60	120.90	+ 0.90	. . .
Jap Smllr Co	464.50	494.50	+ 1.00	
Nth Amer	382.90	405.10	− 6.40	0.72
UK Inc & Gth	244.00	260.20	+ 0.50	2.72
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	161.20	171.40	+ 0.60	1.88
UK High Inc Inc	169.20	180.00	+ 0.60	3.79
-do- Accum	224.30	238.60	+ 0.80	3.79
UK Pref & F I Inc	58.44	62.08	− 0.34	5.96
Envrnmntl Opps	96.26	102.40	+ 0.50	0.96
UK Smllr Cos #	62.57	66.56	+ 0.31	0.80
Extra Income Inc	47.13	50.13†	− 0.46	7.80
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
American	168.29	178.40	− 2.00	0.45
Convertibles #	22.22	23.61	+ 0.05	5.93
Equity Income #	138.10	146.70	− 1.00	4.09
Eurofund	58.51	62.09†	+ 0.41	0.32
Financial	52.50	55.78	− 0.28	1.34
Growth & Inc #	272.70	289.70†	− 1.00	2.87
High Dist #	173.50	184.30	− 0.80	4.61
International	439.40	466.90	− 4.50	0.11
Intl Cap Inc	105.20	112.30†	− 0.90	2.94
Latin American	30.63	32.54	− 0.40	
Pacific	91.30	97.01	− 0.39	. .
Prnl High Inc	21.83	23.19†	− 0.14	7.12
Tokyo	233.60	248.00	− 0.50	
UK Smaller Cos	249.80	265.20	+ 1.40	1.13
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BH Director Dlgs	105.45	112.30	+ 0.69	1.36
Growth Acc	249.24	265.49		0.80
Income	586.27	623.44†	+ 0.42	5.25
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	226.40	240.90	+ 2.90	0.94
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	91.88	96.72	+ 0.68	1.77
Ethical Tst	47.80	50.32	− 0.15	1.01
Far Eastern	324.22	341.28	− 0.08	1.57
High Income	140.02	147.39	+ 0.38	4.57
Index Trcking	48.22	50.76		3.25
Intl Growth	137.27	144.49	+ 1.18	0.45
North American	140.88	148.29	− 0.88	1.43
Pelican	135.19	142.31	+ 0.70	3.04
Smaller Cos	70.49	74.20	+ 0.98	2.76
Special Sits	92.32	97.18	+ 0.89	2.87
Tst of Inv Tsts	208.32	219.28†	− 0.39	1.10
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	211.98	225.51	+ 2.24	1.25
Smaller Cos Acc	375.15	399.10	+ 3.98	1.25
Recovery	53.20	56.60	+ 0.22	1.49
Recovery Acc	54.50	57.98	+ 0.22	1.49
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	85.75	91.98	− 0.83	
Fd of Inv Tsts	50.63	54.00†	− 0.30	0.54
High Income #	38.65	41.42†	− 0.30	11.71
Warrant	53.44	58.09	− 0.55	
Zero Preference	41.52	44.05	− 0.22	.
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	86.08	91.57	+ 0.20	3.12
Family Income Tst	47.06	47.06	+ 0.19	5.64
Family Trust	93.85	99.83	+ 0.63	2.62
United Charities	277.00	294.60	+ 0.50	3.24
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.70
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	27.57	27.65	− 0.14	7.23
Intl Bond	29.77	30.90	− 0.01	5.43
Income Funds				
High Income	25.46	26.74†	− 0.18	5.39
Income Plus	123.40	131.30†	− 0.20	4.03
Amer Eq Inc	60.90	64.51	− 1.05	1.37
European Income	47.73	50.75†	+ 0.54	2.36
Far East Inc	66.19	70.36	− 0.21	2.34
Global Convertible	24.97	26.57	+ 0.04	2.63
UK Dev Gth	28.98	30.83†	− 0.08	2.20
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	71.98	76.78	− 0.94	.
American	322.40	341.60	− 5.60	.
Amer Spec Sits	176.70	188.60	− 0.90	
Japan Smaller Cos	36.20	38.62†	− 0.28	
European	212.90	226.40	+ 1.60	0.60
European Opps	75.56	80.35	+ 0.65	0.14
Global Priv	30.61	32.55	+ 0.19	0.69
UK Growth	114.30	121.60	+ 0.60	1.18
Growth & Inc	166.80	176.30	+ 1.40	2.74
Intl PEP	44.98	47.83	+ 0.18	1.01
Japan Spec Sits	93.07	99.13†	+ 0.84	. .
Japan	184.10	195.40	− 1.00	.
Managed Intl	335.40	355.40	− 0.80	0.42
Moneybuilder	63.98	68.01	+ 0.16	.
Recovery	54.88	58.36	+ 1.15	1.32
South E Asia	186.70	199.20	− 0.70	0.97
Special Sits	666.10	708.30	+ 17.40	0.65
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	113.23	113.23	+ 0.10	5.70
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2780				
Balanced #	150.20	152.90	+ 1.20	1.74
Inc Ptflo #	92.70	94.29†	+ 0.58	4.86
Cap Ptflo	159.50	162.20	+ 0.30	1.43
General Opps	137.00	138.70	+ 1.80	4.96
Growth Inc	35.52	36.18	+ 0.39	0.99
Private Portfolio	473.10	482.20	+ 4.40	1.12
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 396 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smllr Cos	142.40	151.60	+ 1.10	0.30
Emrg Asian	160.60	171.00	− 7.00	.
High Income	21.71	23.17†	− 0.03	9.71
UK Income	111.80	119.20	+ 0.58	4.14
US Smaller Cos	400.50	427.60	+ 2.10	
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	78.93	83.00†	− 1.02	4.12
Investment Trust	105.38	110.81†	− 0.01	
UK Smaller Cos	100.18	105.34†	+ 0.61	0.97

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	76.40	81.50†	− 0.90	
-do- Accum	76.40	81.50†	− 0.90	
Amer Smlr Cos	644.20	689.00		. . .
-do- Accum	658.10	703.90		
Capital Tst	308.90	332.40	+ 9.40	1.17
-do- Accum	535.80	570.00	+ 13.80	1.17
Contl Smlr Cos	64.04	68.35	+ 1.46	0.77
-do- Accum	67.57	72.13	+ 1.54	0.77
Convertible	137.10	145.80	+ 0.50	5.15
-do- Accum	290.90	309.50	+ 1.30	5.15
Emerging Markets	69.20	73.93	− 0.94	.
-do- Accum	69.43	74.18	− 0.94	. . .
European	138.00	146.30	+ 1.70	0.36
-do- Accum	145.10	153.90	+ 1.80	0.36
Extra Income	377.10	401.20†	+ 3.50	3.60
-do- Accum	586.90	624.40†	+ 5.40	3.60
Financial	159.50	169.70	+ 2.00	0.60
-do- Accum	168.90	179.70	+ 2.10	0.60
Gilt Trust	65.02	67.04	+ 0.09	5.91
-do- Accum	95.75	98.73	+ 0.13	5.91
Health Fund Inc	269.80	289.20	+ 2.00	.
-do- Accum	269.80	289.20	+ 2.00	
Income & Growth	222.10	236.30	+ 2.50	3.10
-do- Accum	347.10	369.30	+ 3.80	3.10
Intl Growth	425.50	453.60	− 2.10	.
-do- Accum	472.50	503.80	− 2.30	. . .
Japan & Gen	181.20	192.80†	− 0.20	.
-do- Accum	183.00	194.70†	− 0.20	. .
Monthly Inc #	188.90	200.90†	+ 4.30	3.56
Managed Port Inc	118.90	125.20	+ 0.70	1.69
-do- Accum	127.70	134.40	+ 0.80	1.69
Quarterly Income #	55.05	59.15†	+ 0.37	4.34
-do- Accum #	61.58	66.18†	+ 0.42	4.34
Recovery	358.70	383.60†	+ 1.40	0.75
-do- Accum	423.50	452.90†	+ 1.70	0.75
UK Growth	62.90	66.92	+ 0.71	2.05
-do- Accum	66.66	70.92	+ 0.75	2.05
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	58.73	62.47	− 0.58	0.42
FP Am Smllr Cos	192.10	205.40	+ 4.20	. .
FP Asian Growth	296.00	316.50	− 5.50	. .
FP Ascendion	406.10	435.70†	+ 18.70	.
FP Equity Dist	434.00	461.80	+ 0.20	2.50
-do- Accum	941.60	£10.01	+ 1.00	2.50
FP Euro Gth	263.30	280.10	+ 3.20	0.15
-do- Accum	286.30	304.50	+ 3.50	0.15
FP Intl Bond	60.48	64.00†	+ 0.02	5.12
FP Intl Gth Dist	37.75	40.28	− 0.06	0.41
-do- Accum	55.12	58.82	− 0.08	0.41
FP Pac Basin Acc	226.20	241.70	− 1.40	.
FP Income #	57.80	61.85	− 0.17	4.93
-do- Accum #	195.40	208.40	− 0.50	4.93
FP Jap Smllr Cos	303.70	323.90	− 3.00	.
FP Monthly Dist #	74.01	78.98†	− 0.65	5.46
FP Stlg Deposit	100.80	100.80	+ 0.10	5.60
FP Tokyo	82.92	88.44	− 0.08	
FP UK Focus	40.65	43.70	+ 0.07	2.60
FP UK Growth	189.30	201.90	− 0.30	2.52
-do- Accum	375.60	400.60	− 0.70	2.52
Stewardship Dist	394.60	419.70	+ 3.80	1.77
-do- Accum	491.20	522.50	+ 4.90	1.77
Stwrdshp Inc Dist #	77.56	82.49	+ 0.57	4.79
-do- Accum #	104.10	110.70	+ 0.80	4.79
N Am Stshp Dist	118.90	126.40	− 2.80	0.85
-do- Accum	127.40	135.50	− 3.00	0.85
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	123.00	130.80	+ 0.50	1.13
Open Cap Gth Acc	128.00	136.10†	+ 0.50	0.21
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	116.00	123.40†	+ 0.40	2.43
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	121.30	129.00	+ 0.40	2.43
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	118.50	126.00	+ 0.30	3.55
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	124.80	132.70	+ 0.40	3.55
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	271.10	288.80	+ 0.40	2.13
Cash	49.42	50.16†	+ 0.03	5.31
Growth Portfolio	87.70	92.96	− 0.10	0.88
Income Portfolio	70.11	74.14†	+ 0.05	4.15
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 238 8441				
Special Sits	232.10	248.20	+ 3.50	1.18
Dividend	93.70	100.20†	− 0.70	4.07
Inv Gth & Inc	239.60	256.30	− 1.70	2.73
UK & Gen	48.36	51.72†	− 0.71	1.88
Fund of Fonds	73.97	79.11	+ 0.51	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 8431				
Amer Spec Sits	250.50	268.00	+ 9.50	
European	644.50	687.60†	+ 3.80	0.88
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	53.92	57.48	+ 0.46	4.72
-do- Accum	58.70	62.56	+ 0.49	4.72
Far East & Gen	282.60	302.30	− 2.30	
Germany	134.30	142.90	+ 1.00	
High Yield #	48.36	51.10†	− 0.27	8.28
-do- Accum #	51.59	54.53	− 0.28	8.28
Income Inc	183.50	196.30†	− 2.60	4.35
-do- Accum	206.10	220.50	+ 1.10	4.35
International	379.10	404.90†	− 0.40	0.28
Intl Income	93.37	98.88	+ 0.10	2.91
Japan & General	440.40	468.40	− 1.40	
Korean Securities	84.82	89.33	− 0.83	
Orient Acc	170.30	182.20	− 0.10	0.19
UK Capital Inc	188.60	201.80†	+ 0.60	1.35
UK Capital Acc	333.80	357.00	+ 1.00	1.35
UK Smllr Cos Inc	46.72	49.97	+ 0.19	4.35
-do- Accum	52.62	56.28	+ 0.21	4.35
UK Spec Sits	97.61	104.40	+ 0.10	1.24
US Growth	183.00	194.10	− 2.70	.
Wwide Spec Sits	154.90	165.30	− 0.40	.
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	58.15	62.13†	+ 0.21	1.83
Cash Trust	142.72	142.72	+ 0.12	5.70
Practical Inv Inc #	123.15	131.71	− 0.15	2.55
-do- Accum #	289.01	309.10	− 0.37	2.55
UK Index	170.26	171.12†	− 2.30	3.25
UK Smaller Cos	155.71	168.53	+ 1.76	0.70
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.23	25.11	− 0.14	7.93
High Income	34.34	36.71†	+ 0.10	4.99
UK Equity Income	153.25	163.90†	+ 1.75	3.15
Global Bond	30.57	31.68	− 0.02	5.30
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	47.05	50.32	− 1.61	.
Global Managed	149.53	159.00	− 0.34	1.32
Gold & Intl Res	128.31	137.23	+ 2.65	0.82
Global Utilities	146.66	156.53	− 0.46	1.42
Overseas Funds				
American	189.52	201.55	− 2.54	0.82
European	127.43	134.98†	+ 1.38	0.81
Euro Sel Opps	191.20	203.04	+ 2.89	. . .
Amer Emerging	151.45	161.98	+ 1.68	
Hong Kong	166.64	178.38†	− 1.06	1.74
Japan	247.51	262.82	− 0.54	
Pacific Growth	237.77	254.30	− 2.88	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	246.63	246.63	− 0.04	2.06
Long Term Bal	267.22	267.22	− 0.58	2.99
Med Term Bal	219.97	219.97	− 0.83	3.05
UK Equity	281.26	281.26	− 0.23	2.54
UK Emerging Cos	165.68	165.68	+ 0.83	1.97
American	309.02	309.02†	− 6.37	1.11
Japan	134.67	134.67†	+ 0.16	. .
European	329.68	329.68†	+ 2.35	0.91
Index Linked Gilt	176.91	176.91†	− 2.35	2.70
Fixed Interest	167.50	167.50†	− 1.73	6.59
Amer Emergng	353.68	353.68†	+ 4.13	
Pacific	280.43	280.43	− 2.55	0.78
Emerging Mkts	130.77	130.77†	− 0.79	0.18
Index Strat Japan	153.82	153.82†	− 0.33	0.14
-do- Pacific Rim	211.24	211.24†	− 3.01	1.27
-do- Cont Europe	182.18	182.18†	+ 1.87	1.73
Index Strat USA	182.46	182.46†	− 3.51	1.73
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	118.16	123.57	+ 0.11	.
Med Term Bal	104.75	111.44	− 0.21	.
Long Term Bal	120.08	127.74	− 0.12	.
UK Equity	130.13	138.43	− 0.11	. .
UK Emerging Cos	77.63	82.58	+ 0.42	.
American	143.23	152.37	− 3.14	.
Japan	64.41	68.51	+ 0.08	.
European	136.67	145.39	+ 1.04	
Fixed Interest	85.42	90.87	− 0.93	.
Index Linked Gilt	78.83	83.84	− 1.11	. .
Deposit	85.04	90.47	+ 0.17	.
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	156.49	166.83†	+ 0.21	0.51
Brclit Gth Port Inc	70.94	74.87	− 1.13	0.80
-do- Inc Port Inc	61.31	64.71†	− 0.98	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	61.78	65.20	+ 0.39	0.10
Shaw Utilities	66.79	70.49	+ 1.22	3.15
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	615.47	654.75	+ 12.55	1.57
-do- Accum	695.05	739.41	+ 14.18	1.57
European Inc	170.30	181.00	+ 4.04	0.98
Amalgam Inc	158.76	168.11	− 0.78	8.41
N America Inc	384.70	409.26	+ 8.11	0.80
Far East Inc	398.60	424.04	+ 7.67	.
-do- Accum	413.11	439.48	+ 7.95	.
UK Divid Inc	193.42	205.77	+ 1.93	2.78
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc #	99.70	106.62†	− 1.42	4.39
UK Small Cos	61.61	65.88†	+ 0.20	0.61
British Growth	68.36	73.10	+ 0.22	2.57
American Gwth	261.12	279.27	− 4.23	
Japan Gwth	67.44	72.12	− 0.81	.
Greater China	199.57	213.43	− 0.79	0.56
Pacific Strategy	166.96	178.55†	− 0.86	0.55
European Gwth	105.15	112.45	+ 1.38	0.69
Intl Growth	167.66	179.31	+ 1.21	
US Index (F)	17.7851	18.7391	− 0.51	4.60
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	88.25	94.37	+ 1.13	2.28
Monthly Income	40.55	43.20†	− 0.36	9.00
MS Unit Trust Dealing: 071 865 0033				
Grd UK Index (E)	13.9414	14.7179	− 0.02	5.50
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	104.57	111.25†	+ 3.46	1.66
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9868				
European	565.90	604.50	+ 5.40	0.37
Gilt & Fixed	126.90	134.60	− 4.10	5.89
Growth Equity	401.60	429.00	+ 1.20	1.34
Income Trust	146.50	156.50	+ 0.40	3.34
International	211.00	225.40	− 0.30	0.01
Japan Trust	130.70	139.60	+ 0.50	.
Nth American	351.00	374.90	− 2.80	
Pacific	618.30	660.50	− 5.60	
Guardhill	605.40	646.70	+ 1.30	1.30
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
B&U Trust	109.62	113.78	+ 0.35	5.63
Global High Inc	102.38	106.27	− 0.32	5.72
Corporate Bond	103.38	107.30	− 0.51	6.83
Eqty & Bond Inc	108.37	115.23†	− 0.48	5.03
European Growth	120.54	128.16	+ 0.23	.
Intl PEP Trust	69.90	74.32	− 0.17	. . .
Equity Inc	132.35	140.72†	− 0.25	4.08
-do- Accum	189.98	202.00	− 0.37	4.08
Recovery	342.80	364.50	− 1.00	1.95
-do- Accum	401.80	427.20	− 1.20	1.95
St Vinc High Inc	128.19	130.11†	+ 3.37	7.40
UK Emerg Cos	283.20	301.10		2.13
UK Smlr Cos	381.70	388.40†	− 0.20	2.36
Glob Priv Tst	110.55	117.54	+ 0.70	1.16
-do- Accum	112.81	119.73	+ 0.70	1.16
Inc Stars Tst	87.54	93.08	− 0.47	8.87
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050 01904 611110				
Growth	31.16	33.04†	+ 0.27	1.78
Growth Acc	31.84	33.76	+ 0.28	1.78
Income	30.26	32.08	− 0.11	3.83
Income Acc	31.58	33.46	+ 1.27	3.83
Accumulation Tst	23.52	25.48	+ 0.17	3.00
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
High Provider	98.76	102.10†	+ 0.40	7.09
Model Ptflo	232.30	244.00†	− 0.10	2.41
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT				
Enquiries: 0645 464646 Dealing: 0645 464848				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	353.30	378.03†	− 0.48	1.12
Best of British	70.38	74.81	+ 0.28	2.49
UK Smaller Cos	143.51	154.27†	+ 2.29	1.14
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	303.19	322.88	+ 1.32	3.54
-do- Accum #	839.87	894.42	+ 3.38	3.54
High Income	337.55	360.84†	+ 1.15	4.71
Extra Income #	294.38	313.07	+ 0.95	5.68
Pref & Bond	48.17	49.78†	+ 0.04	8.30
International				
International	317.01	337.06	+ 0.78	
Global Bond	57.55	60.59	− 0.03	5.91
Intl Port Tst	96.71	103.43	+ 0.40	0.45
Global Tech	243.23	259.73	− 6.53	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	197.84	211.57	− 1.28	0.05
European	583.92	618.71	+ 8.70	1.65
European Income #	91.00	96.38†	+ 0.81	2.87

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	170.20	181.79	+ 0.95	2.47
European Value	85.13	90.85	+ 1.18	1.10
-do- Accum	91.19	97.32	+ 1.24	1.10
Japan Trust	232.46	247.71†	+ 1.47	
Japan Special Sits	234.52	249.99	− 3.69	
Pacific Smlr Cos	254.16	271.95	+ 1.40	. .
North American	305.38	324.17	− 1.70	.
American Smaller	164.42	175.76	+ 2.89	.
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	155.80	164.00†	+ 2.80	4.07
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	115.58	121.02	+ 0.62	1.82
Capital	200.11	209.54†	+ 0.83	1.13
Dollar	473.35	495.66	− 5.58	. .
Enterprise Gth	393.72	412.27	+ 3.75	1.22
European	271.25	284.03	+ 2.80	0.41
Far East	348.16	364.56	− 2.57	.
Financial	893.70	£10.40	+ 6.24	1.82
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	25.92	26.96	− 0.07	.
High Yield	110.68	115.90	+ 0.45	3.79
Income & Growth	160.18	167.72	+ 0.60	3.08
International	298.70	312.78	− 0.50	.
Japanese General	221.86	232.31	− 0.92	. .
Japan Tech	96.04	100.57	+ 0.30	. . .
Nat Resources	93.80	98.22	+ 1.88	. . .
Portfolio	83.91	87.87	+ 0.21	1.33
Special Sits	188.05	196.91†	− 0.04	0.41
UK Emerging Cos	110.38	115.59†	+ 0.52	0.75
US Smaller Cos	134.15	140.47	+ 2.60	. .
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	618.70	660.30†	+ 4.50	5.08
Capital	694.10	740.80	+ 5.40	2.17
Balanced #	112.10	118.60†	+ 0.40	5.62
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	602.90	640.90	− 19.60	0.44
European Gwth	137.40	146.40	+ 2.20	.
Japan Gwth	288.60	307.90	+ 0.40	.
Japan Smlr Cos	32.74	34.94†	− 0.61	
Asian	68.31	72.90	− 0.90	0.09
Sing & Malay Gwth	91.15	97.28	+ 0.35	. . .
Hong Kong Gwth	134.60	143.80†	− 1.90	1.37
Global Bond	22.94	24.22	+ 0.06	5.41
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	160.40	161.20	+ 0.90	3.43
Tride Index	138.90	124.10†	+ 1.10	2.27
THE FOOTSIE FUND	62.37	62.68	+ 0.32	3.02
Index Funds-International				
American Index	269.20	270.60†	− 5.20	1.17
Eurotrack 100	191.10	192.10†	+ 2.80	1.12
Japan Index	82.17	82.58†	+ 0.08	0.23
Tiger Index	221.60	222.70	− 3.20	0.43
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	43.61	45.33†	− 0.09	0.62
General Funds				
Managed Dist	85.08	88.44	− 0.07	1.24
Managed	86.90	90.33	− 0.08	1.24
Report Child Fnd	97.84	101.70	+ 0.40	1.98
UK Growth	68.38	71.08	+ 0.24	1.89
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	85.84	89.23†	− 0.04	6.70
Gilt & Fixed Int	26.75	27.60†	− 0.12	8.84
UK Inc & Gwth	46.38	48.21	+ 0.34	3.05
UK Income	363.70	379.10	+ 1.50	4.84
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	61.90	64.09	− 0.62	0.29
Amer Smlr Cos	152.30	158.30	+ 3.50	. .
-do- Accum	153.90	160.00	+ 3.60	
Europe Gth	210.20	218.00	+ 0.60	.
-do- Accum	217.70	225.80	+ 0.60	. .
Euro Smaller Cos	41.15	42.78	+ 0.34	.
French Growth	92.51	96.05†	+ 1.27	0.32
-do- Accum	100.00	103.90†	+ 1.40	0.32
H Kong & China	97.84	101.70†	− 0.70	0.88
Intl Growth	67.00	69.65	− 0.09	0.17
-do- Accum	67.94	70.62	− 0.09	0.17
Japan Gth	32.98	34.26	− 0.29	.
-do- Accum	32.96	34.26	− 0.29	
Japan Smaller Cos	39.05	40.59	+ 0.15	
Glob Emg Mkts	100.50	104.50	− 1.30	.
-do- Accum	101.20	105.20	− 1.30	.
SE Asia	370.90	385.50	− 4.90	0.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	55.64	57.34†	− 0.02	6.49
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc.	100.90	106.40	− 0.50	4.05
Sector Value Gwth	100.80	106.30	− 0.90	2.23
Hy 5 Europe	100.10	104.80	+ 1.10	2.39
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	216.30	230.00	− 4.60	. .
Income #	197.85	210.47†	− 1.35	4.06
UK Growth	76.77	81.66†	+ 0.28	2.10
International	87.24	92.80†	+ 2.47	0.46
Ecology	98.60	104.89	− 0.71	1.02
European	171.57	182.52	+ 5.44	.
Far Eastern	315.10	335.10	− 1.50	.

For your protection all telephone conversations are recorded. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Ltd is registered in England with no.2170242 (Registered Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB) Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	97.70	101.10†	− 2.00	7.70
Gilt Yield	117.10	123.50†	− 1.80	6.88
Global Income	232.60	247.40†	− 0.20	3.50
High Yield	151.30	160.90	+ 0.90	5.57
-do- Accum	481.00	511.70	+ 2.40	5.57
Smlls Cos Div	57.74	61.43†	+ 0.28	3.38
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	142.20	151.30	+ 1.00	.
Asian Growth	361.58	384.60	− 1.90	0.21
-do- Accum	424.80	451.90	− 2.30	0.21
North American	103.30	109.90	− 2.70	0.24
European Special	125.90	133.90	− 0.10	0.09
European	176.90	188.20	+ 2.80	0.43
-do- Accum	233.20	248.10	+ 3.60	0.43
Global Eqty Inc	119.70	127.00†	+ 0.60	1.61
Japan	428.30	455.60	− 0.30	.
Japanese Special	232.60	247.40	− 0.10	
Smaller Cos	132.90	141.40	+ 0.80	1.08
UK Equity Growth	48.08	51.15†	+ 0.61	2.00
UK Index Inc	323.80	325.40	+ 1.80	3.34
Birchans Tst	105.30	113.80	.	1.93
-do- Accum	105.30	113.80	.	1.93
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	289.53	308.01	+ 0.48	5.03
Inc & Growth Inc	61.37	65.29†	+ 0.36	4.18
Smaller Cos	78.55	83.56	+ 0.91	1.21
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 623				
Growth Trust	286.20	304.40	+ 3.70	1.76
High Income	114.50	121.80	+ 0.40	4.27
International	117.30	124.70	+ 0.30	0.48
European Trust	87.24	92.80†	+ 0.49	0.82
Japanese Trust	43.25	46.01†	− 0.48	. .
American Trust	113.50	120.70	− 1.40	
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	428.90	455.10†	+ 3.40	2.25
UK Inc/Gth	451.60	479.20†	+ 3.90	2.91
UK Income	320.70	340.30†	+ 2.70	3.53
UK Sml Cos	277.30	296.60†	+ 2.40	1.66
Euro Gwth	156.90	168.20	+ 1.60	
N Amer Gwth	119.80	127.10	− 2.40	0.19
Japan Growth	67.53	71.65	+ 0.12	.
Money Mkt	129.995	129.995		0.000
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries. 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist	563.30	598.60†	− 1.40	2.58
-do- Accum	£11.25	£11.97†	+ 6.00	2.58
Equity Income #	104.19	110.70†	+ 0.30	4.46
UK Tactical Allocto	64.40	68.39	+ 0.36	4.08
European	140.30	149.30†	+ 2.00	1.32
Far Eastern	242.70	258.20	+ 1.90	
Fixed Interest	53.02	56.40	− 0.33	7.13
Gilt	90.41	95.87	− 0.31	6.18
Global Growth	84.96	90.38	+ 1.07	0.46
Intl Bond	55.17	58.55†	+ 0.04	5.40
Japanese	74.68	79.45	+ 0.64	
North American	200.10	212.90†	− 0.50	0.62
Pacific Growth	125.30	133.30	. .	0.17
UK Index	73.50	77.18	+ 0.38	2.93
UK Recovery	108.70	115.60	+ 0.70	1.94
UK Smaller Cos	148.80	158.30	+ 1.70	1.22
US Index	80.60	85.07	− 1.60	1.33
European Index	89.46	94.42	+ 1.03	1.99
Japan Index	42.09	44.42	− 0.01	.
Worldwide	95.85	102.00	+ 0.50	1.47
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	54.26	58.03†	+ 0.25	2.12
Income	63.59	68.00†	+ 0.54	2.96
Far East	59.38	63.90	− 0.04	.
North American	133.20	142.20	− 2.80	.
Global	112.30	120.10	− 0.30	0.18
European	96.84	103.40	+ 0.20	0.63
Japan	107.50	114.90		
Intl Currency Bd	62.62	66.39	− 0.10	4.21
SE Asia	119.20	127.40	+ 0.50	. .
UK Cap Growth	100.40	107.30	+ 0.80	1.64
Recovery Trust	81.52	86.72	+ 2.71	1.28
Managed	75.57	80.39†	+ 0.09	0.61
Cash	50.21	50.21†	+ 0.03	4.89
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 319				
Balanced	387.40	412.20	+ 0.70	2.59
-do- Accum	904.30	962.10	+ 1.80	2.59
Contl Euro Gth	77.01	81.07	+ 1.05	0.84
-do- Accum	82.88	87.25	+ 1.13	0.84
Extra Inc	277.00	294.70	+ 0.20	4.14
-do- Accum	744.80	792.40	+ 0.80	4.14
FTSE 100 Inc	115.80	123.29	.	2.61
FTSE 100 Acc	117.80	125.40		2.61
German Gth	141.50	149.00	− 0.40	
-do- Accum	148.40	156.30	− 0.40	.
Growth Port	628.70	668.90	+ 3.10	0.01
-do- Accum	647.40	688.80	+ 3.20	0.01
High Interest Inc	95.75	99.23	− 1.07	7.92
High Interest Acc	96.78	100.30	− 1.10	7.92
Hi Reserve Inc #	105.00	111.80†	− 0.20	6.60
Hi Reserve Acc #	111.10	118.20	− 0.20	6.60
Income	539.30	573.80	+ 6.30	3.27
-do- Accum	£14.95	£15.91	+ 16.00	3.27
Income Port	547.60	582.60†	− 5.30	4.44
-do- Accum	601.60	639.40	− 5.70	4.44
Japan Growth	110.40	117.50	+ 0.40	.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	110.70	117.80	+ 0.40	.
Master Trust	66.34	70.58	+ 0.14	1.14
-do- Accum	75.37	80.19	+ 0.16	1.14
N American Gen	237.30	252.50	− 4.70	0.68
-do- Accum	274.40	292.00	− 5.30	0.68
NAm Sm Co-Rec	189.40	201.50	− 2.30	
-do- Accum	193.30	205.70	− 2.30	.
Pacific Basin	292.20	310.90†	− 8.70	0.03
-do- Accum	311.30	331.20	− 9.30	0.03
Small Cos Rec	487.80	492.30	+ 17.80	1.62
-do- Accum	637.20	670.80	+ 24.32	1.62
UK Eq Gth	155.00	164.90	+ 0.80	2.64
UK Eq Inc	125.30	133.38	− 0.20	4.07
UK Growth	98.98	105.38	+ 0.80	1.86
-do- Accum	122.80	130.70	+ 0.70	1.86
Worldwide Gth	367.60	391.10	+ 3.90	. . .
-do- Accum	543.40	578.10	+ 5.90	. .
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	86.28	92.31	− 0.74	0.40
General	101.39	108.76	− 0.04	2.40
Income	71.07	76.25	− 0.11	5.20
International	74.89	80.35	− 0.15	0.49
Japan	60.78	65.21	+ 0.18	
Tst of Inv Trusts	74.98	80.45	− 0.32	1.40
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	514.20	543.28†	− 2.20	0.33
-do- Accum	642.60	678.80†	− 2.80	0.33
Amer Recovery	556.80	588.80	− 4.10	0.57
-do- Accum	641.60	678.40	− 4.70	0.57
Amer Smllr Cos	159.20	168.40†	+ 3.50	
-do- Accum	162.60	172.10†	+ 3.70	. .
Australasian	191.80	202.00†	+ 5.80	2.14
-do- Accum	238.00	251.70†	+ 7.20	2.14
Capital	938.80	992.80†	+ 5.40	2.85
-do- Accum	1106.20	1169.90†	+ 6.40	2.85
Charifund	749.90	756.40	+ 3.00	5.71
-do- Accum	3713.90	3751.70	+ 15.20	5.71
Commodity	489.70	517.90†	+ 11.90	0.36
-do- Accum	722.10	763.60†	+ 17.60	0.36
Compound Grth	1071.50	1133.10	+ 6.50	2.95
-do- Accum	1152.90	1219.10	+ 7.00	2.95
Corporate Bond	24.89	24.99	− 0.10	7.70
Dividend	44.80	47.40	+ 0.30	4.23
-do- Accum	195.20	205.80	+ 1.40	4.23
Equity Income	348.30	368.30†	+ 2.20	5.02
-do- Accum	471.80	498.90†	+ 3.00	5.02
Euro & General	618.60	654.20	+ 12.60	0.85
-do- Accum	788.90	834.40	+ 16.10	0.85
Euro Dividend	81.80	86.50	+ 0.50	3.54
-do- Accum	101.70	107.50	+ 0.70	3.54
Extra Yield	460.20	486.70	+ 2.30	4.88
-do- Accum	1490.50	1578.50	+ 7.40	4.88
Far Eastern	390.40	412.80†	+ 0.40	1.02
-do- Accum	520.80	550.70†	+ 0.60	1.02
Fund of Inv Tsts	689.20	728.80	− 1.60	1.89
-do- Accum	1309.40	1384.60	− 3.00	1.89
General	67.40	71.30	+ 0.30	3.77
-do- Accum	195.90	207.40	+ 1.00	3.77
Gilt Income	60.35	60.44†	− 0.36	7.20
-do- Accum	176.87	177.12†	− 1.07	7.20
Gold	84.50	89.40	+ 1.70	0.13
-do- Accum	100.30	106.10	+ 2.00	0.13
High Income	32.30	34.20	+ 0.30	4.66
-do- Accum	135.10	142.80	+ 1.00	4.66
Intl Growth	91.80	97.10†	+ 0.30	0.60
-do- Accum	161.60	171.00†	+ 0.60	0.60
International Inc	113.50	120.00	+ 0.70	4.38
-do- Accum	175.50	185.60	+ 1.10	4.38
Japan & Gen	41.80	44.20	+ 0.18	.
-do- Accum	44.90	47.40	+ 0.10	
Japan Smlr Cos	145.60	154.00	+ 0.70	.
-do- Accum	146.60	155.10	+ 0.70	
Managed Gwth	26.60	28.10	+ 0.20	1.69
Managed Income	29.90	31.40†	+ 0.20	4.16
Midland	60.38	63.80	+ 0.20	3.51
-do- Accum	267.00	279.00	+ 0.80	3.51
Pension Ex	1050.20	1076.50	+ 13.20	4.26
Recovery	47.20	49.90	+ 0.50	2.63
-do- Accum	79.40	84.00	+ 0.90	2.63
Second General	74.10	78.40	+ 0.50	3.58
-do- Accum	198.40	209.90	+ 1.20	3.58
Smaller Cos	71.40	75.50†	+ 0.50	2.12
-do- Accum	146.20	154.60†	+ 1.10	2.12
Treasury	25.10	25.14†	+ 0.02	6.14
Trustee	43.10	45.60	+ 0.20	4.69
-do- Accum	180.30	190.90	+ 0.90	4.69
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	96.26	102.40	+ 1.45	1.44
Intl Bond	67.42	70.83	− 0.02	5.86
Intl Equity Growth	84.58	89.89	+ 0.05	0.67
N Amer Growth	130.50	138.68	− 1.48	0.69
Special Sits Growth	25.02	26.61	− 0.13	2.04
UK Growth	431.79	459.35	+ 1.65	2.64
-do- Accum	578.73	615.67	+ 2.20	2.64
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1476.00	1497.70	− 3.30	2.90
Income #	1027.80	1044.20	− 0.70	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	161.10	165.40		3.66
For Manulife see Canada Life				
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 688 066				
M & S Inv Ptflo	171.40	178.70	− 0.90	2.24
-do- Accum	201.20	207.40	− 1.10	2.24
UK Sel Ptflo	150.20	154.90	− 0.80	2.47
-do- Accum	178.58	184.00	− 1.00	2.47
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	72.47	77.09	+ 0.31	3.78
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	81.70	86.73	− 0.41	3.84
European	100.40	106.60†	+ 1.50	0.77
Income #	81.83	86.87†	− 0.52	4.76
Nth American	89.71	95.23	− 0.68	0.33
Far East	186.10	197.60	+ 2.10	0.04
Japan	61.55	65.34†	− 0.14	.
Emrging Mkts	91.32	97.65†	+ 0.70	
Intl Growth	130.00	138.00	− 0.30	0.75
UK Growth	114.40	121.40	+ 0.10	2.52
UK Smlr Co	56.82	60.32	+ 0.37	1.51
Asian Opps Fd	42.26	45.20	− 0.39	0.38
Glob Gwth PEP	59.79	63.46	+ 0.50	0.74
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	101.40	107.90	+ 0.10	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	455.56	484.64†	− 7.96	4.59
Global Inc	74.55	79.31	− 1.53	3.49
Brit Leaders	390.45	415.37†	− 6.33	3.33
Intl Leaders	224.96	239.31†	− 4.19	1.51
PAM Mg Bal Grth	72.35	75.17†	+ 2.76	0.48
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0171 280 2860				
American	259.30	273.70	− 4.00	. .
-do- Accum	277.30	292.60	− 4.30	
American Opps	118.80	126.50	+ 1.60	.
-do- Accum	120.10	128.10	+ 1.60	.
British Blue Chip	91.92	97.58	− 0.13	2.48
-do- Accum	116.30	123.40	− 0.26	2.48
Cash	100.69	100.69	+ 0.10	5.99
-do- Accum *	144.50	144.50	+ 0.10	5.99
Emerging Mkts	121.70	130.80	− 1.00	0.11
-do- Accum	122.50	131.70	− 1.00	0.11
European Growth	294.90	312.80	+ 2.30	0.14
-do- Accum	320.60	339.30	+ 2.50	0.14
European Income	92.80	98.30	+ 0.69	2.92
-do- Accum	130.20	137.80	+ 0.90	2.92
General	571.80	606.40	− 9.40	2.04
-do- Accum	1162.00	1236.00	+ 4.00	2.04
Global Bond	134.98	141.70	+ 0.40	5.20
-do- Accum	170.00	178.60	+ 0.60	5.20
Gold & General	262.30	282.00	+ 8.30	0.32
-do- Accum	270.80	291.20	+ 8.50	0.32
Govt Securities	92.60	95.47	− 0.33	6.15
-do- Accum	189.30	195.10	− 0.70	6.15
High Yield Bd	99.65	102.10	− 0.50	7.12
-do- Accum	101.00	103.58	− 0.50	7.12
Income	175.70	186.60†	+ 0.58	4.15
-do- Accum	287.60	305.60†	+ 0.90	4.15
Inc Portfolio #	107.80	114.20	+ 0.10	4.84
-do- Accum #	114.20	121.00	+ 0.10	4.84
Intl Opps	538.30	575.20	+ 2.70	0.15
-do- Accum	725.70	774.10	+ 3.70	0.15
Japan	178.10	186.40	− 0.30	. . .
-do- Accum	180.80	191.40	− 0.30	. .
New Europe	213.40	227.60†	+ 2.60	0.88
-do- Accum	222.40	237.20†	+ 2.70	0.88
Pacific	127.60	136.10	− 1.10	0.75
-do- Accum	137.00	146.10	− 1.20	0.75
Recovery	385.50	411.20	+ 3.60	0.63
-do- Accum	499.80	533.10	+ 4.60	0.63
UK Smaller Cos	62.68	66.86†	+ 1.44	0.77
-do- Accum	71.68	76.46†	+ 1.77	0.77
Portfolio	92.31	97.88	− 0.06	2.38
-do- Accum	111.20	117.90	.	2.36
Managed Grth	114.90	120.28	+ 0.50	1.07
Managed Inc	115.60	119.90	+ 0.20	3.91
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	140.83	149.82	+ 1.90	0.16
Portfolio	76.95	81.86	+ 0.08	1.47
UK Income Inc	86.56	92.08	− 1.34	4.72
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	67.08	70.24	+ 0.10	2.59
-do- Accum	72.70	76.12	+ 0.11	2.59
British Tst	99.26	103.90†	+ 0.60	2.14
-do- Accum	118.70	124.20†	+ 0.80	2.14
Corp Bond Inc	98.62	100.00	.	7.00
-do- Accum	98.62	100.00	. . .	7.00
Extra High Inc	70.30	73.61	+ 0.12	6.62
-do- Accum	144.10	150.80	+ 0.20	6.62
FT-SE 100 Acc	64.91	67.96	+ 0.34	2.85
FT-SE 100 Dist	62.17	65.10	+ 0.32	2.85
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.18	57.42†	− 0.90	6.80
-do- Accum	170.50	177.40†	− 0.50	6.80
High Yield	233.80	244.80	+ 0.40	6.10
-do- Accum	617.40	646.40	+ 1.10	6.10
Income	313.00	327.70†	+ 1.60	4.22
-do- Accum	716.40	750.10†	+ 3.90	4.22
Money Market UT	49.35	49.35†	+ 0.04	5.44
-do- Accum	80.98	80.98†	+ 0.06	5.44
Monthly Income	91.85	96.18†	+ 0.17	4.81
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	124.10	132.00	+ 0.70	1.49
European Growth	128.30	133.90	+ 3.30	0.01

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed	94.48	100.20	− 0.20	6.54
Income	97.76	104.00	+ 0.60	2.46
Japan Growth	52.92	56.18	− 0.24	. . .
Managed	79.54	84.62	+ 0.82	2.08
Money Market	92.03	97.55	+ 0.09	4.12
North American	110.50	117.10	− 0.20	0.38
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	112.50	119.70	+ 0.70	1.48
European Growth	118.70	125.80	+ 3.10	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	89.43	94.89	− 0.22	5.54
Income	95.79	101.90	+ 0.50	2.52
Japan Growth	52.65	55.81	− 0.24	.
Managed	76.02	80.87	+ 0.13	2.06
Money Market	84.91	90.01	+ 0.09	4.08
North American	99.81	105.80	− 0.20	0.46
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	112.10	119.30	+ 0.70	1.47
European Growth	116.70	123.70	+ 3.00	. .
Gilt & Fixed Int	81.97	86.98	− 0.21	5.67
Income	93.96	99.96	+ 0.51	2.58
Japan Growth	53.86	57.09	− 0.21	. . .
Managed	78.84	83.87	+ 0.12	2.07
Money Market	78.62	83.34	+ 0.08	4.18
North American	111.60	118.30	− 0.20	0.35
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	15.00	15.90	+ 0.21	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	468.10	497.00†	− 4.70	. .
European Gth Inc	682.90	731.90	− 9.30	
-do- Accum	690.30	739.40	− 9.50	
Intl Gwth	233.20	247.70	− 1.90	
UK Equity Inc	214.00	227.40	+ 0.80	3.32
Do. Accum	283.10	300.90	+ 1.09	3.32
UK Intl Trdr Inc	184.30	196.90†	+ 0.90	2.53
-do- Accum	224.50	239.90†	+ 1.10	2.53
US Eq Ind Tsk Inc	266.50	282.50	− 7.00	0.92
Japan Tracker	77.17	81.70	+ 0.03	
Asian Trader	240.50	259.30	− 1.40	0.16
Managed Inc	184.30	196.90	+ 0.10	2.19
Deposit Inc	99.97	99.97†	+ 0.07	5.94
Europa	322.50	348.10†	− 0.59	.
Genesis	195.10	210.60	+ 1.40	1.56
High Income	21.66	22.95†	+ 0.07	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 533				
Acumen	105.90	108.40	+ 0.18	2.22
Acumen Inc	98.07	100.30	+ 0.10	2.22
Acumen Reserve	90.25	97.15†	− 0.80	7.97
-do- Inc.	72.82	73.55†	− 0.64	7.97
American Growth	67.16	69.17†	+ 0.33	.
Cash Income	49.67	49.67†	+ 0.04	5.96
Equity Income #	101.70	104.50†	+ 0.40	4.81
European	79.94	81.33	+ 0.02	0.50
Smaller Cos	96.18	90.48	+ 3.92	1.18
W'wide Eqty	75.10	76.78†	+ 0.22	0.12
Global Bond	46.47	47.01†	− 0.09	6.04
UK Growth	107.70	110.50	+ 0.50	1.90
Pacific Growth	126.00	128.90	− 1.30	0.78
Japan Growth	105.10	107.10	− 0.10	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	142.81	151.07	+ 0.93	2.38
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	86.34	91.85	+ 0.23	2.14
UK Income	123.72	130.58	+ 1.41	3.82
Higher Income	230.58	245.30	+ 3.98	5.09
Smaller Cos	98.67	104.97	+ 0.87	1.70
International	110.81	117.88	+ 0.42	1.36
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	130.30	138.60	− 1.97	0.29
European Dist	141.70	150.70	+ 0.90	0.17
Far East Dist	208.09	221.30†	− 0.60	.
Global Care Dist	85.35	90.80	+ 0.47	0.67
Oseas Dist	1202.40	1279.10	− 1.50	0.01
-do- Accum	1560.60	1660.20	− 1.90	0.01
UK Dist	406.00	431.90	+ 1.80	2.55
-do- Accum	813.30	865.20	+ 3.60	2.55
UK Extra Inc Dist	89.26	94.96†	+ 0.76	3.42
Wwide Dist	124.60	132.50	− 0.40	0.27
Wwide Inc Dist	85.66	91.13	+ 0.47	1.79
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 01277 690 280 Admin Enq: 01277 690 388				
Europe Inc	74.72	78.86†	+ 0.72	1.80
Fund of Funds Inc	67.68	71.43	+ 0.36	1.95
North America Inc	66.34	70.02	− 1.25	. .
UK Equity Gth Inc	67.01	70.72	+ 0.32	2.58
-do- Accum	71.16	75.10	+ 0.34	2.58
UK General Inc	66.03	69.69	+ 0.33	2.74
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	48.14	50.72	− 0.16	6.47
UK Income Inc	64.32	67.88†	+ 0.55	4.04
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0500 550 000 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	50.65	53.88	− 0.35	. . .
-do- Accum	51.03	54.29	− 0.36	.
Bond	125.45	133.12	+ 1.15	5.88
Cash Income	50.66	50.66	+ 0.04	5.70
-do- Accum	67.33	67.33	+ 0.06	5.70
Distributor	100.24	106.64	− 1.98	2.98
European	51.53	54.87	+ 0.27	
Foundation	105.89	112.65	+ 0.29	2.45
General	213.13	226.73†	+ 0.81	1.46
Global	377.22	401.30	+ 1.44	0.35
Growth Inc	139.91	148.84	+ 0.38	2.29
Growth Acc	139.91	148.84	+ 0.38	2.29
Higher Income Inc	31.69	33.71	+ 0.37	5.13
-do- Accum	37.04	39.40	+ 0.42	5.13
Income	258.99	275.52	+ 1.58	3.25
Intnpd	139.63	145.45	− 0.42	1.89
Japan	27.19	28.93	+ 0.01	
Oriental Inc	169.00	179.79	− 2.12	0.37
-do- Accum	174.38	185.51	− 2.19	0.37
Pers Int Gwth	36.41	38.73	− 0.08	. .
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2955				
High Income #	47.67	50.05	+ 0.05	5.67
Managed	110.00	116.40	+ 0.50	2.47
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	139.54	146.88†	− 0.68	1.18
UK Equity	160.91	168.43†	+ 0.97	2.56
UK Equity Income	146.54	154.25	+ 0.98	3.33
UK Smaller Cos	132.02	138.97	+ 1.47	1.51
UK Equity Growth	150.88	158.82	+ 1.08	2.16
UK Index Trckg	161.36	169.85†	+ 0.87	3.38
Intl Index Trckg	171.92	180.97†	− 1.50	0.94
International	278.74	293.41	− 0.18	0.55
European	243.47	256.28†	+ 2.46	0.22
Pan European	160.11	168.54	+ 0.92	1.18
Nth American	233.60	245.90	− 1.79	0.14
N Amer Smlr Cos	240.34	252.99	+ 2.39	. .
Japanese	95.67	100.71	− 0.08	
Pacific	256.40	269.89	− 0.79	0.52
South East Asian	297.23	312.87	− 2.11	0.81
Intl Bond	141.43	148.87†	− 0.07	4.96
Gilt & Convertible	107.20	112.84	− 0.18	6.00
Property	81.15	85.42	+ 0.04	6.16
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	310.00	332.50	+ 14.50	0.53
-do- Accum	328.00	351.90	+ 15.40	0.53
Japan Inc	112.50	119.90	− 0.10	. . .
Nth American Inc	128.10	136.50	− 0.90	0.57
Worldwide Inc	173.70	186.40	+ 0.30	0.38
Hong Kong Inc	174.80	187.80	− 1.29	1.16
Swiss Equities Inc	85.94	91.85	+ 1.11	0.07
Wwide Bond Inc	66.16	69.97†	− 1.63	5.12
Emrging Asia Inc	225.30	245.40	− 2.70	
-do- Accum	226.10	246.30	− 2.60	. .
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.17	50.17†	+ 0.04	5.78
Thailand Inc	180.00	196.90	− 1.90	0.95
New Zealand Inc	101.60	109.20	+ 0.70	3.01
Int Mnge PEP Inc	69.47	74.63†	− 0.27	1.33
Latin Am Cmp Inc	62.24	67.28	− 1.69	. . .
UK All Sh Mkt Inc	66.70	67.74†	− 5.31	2.86
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	90.13	96.40	+ 0.76	.
Global Portfolio	80.10	85.67	+ 1.81	. .
Global Opps	70.80	75.72	+ 0.22	. . .
Marsh Global Gth	69.33	73.52	+ 0.31	. . .
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	107.30	114.80	+ 0.80	.
Temple Equity Inc	45.81	49.95	+ 0.28	2.88
Hartley Growth	101.60	108.10	+ 1.40	. . .
Intl Growth Inc	91.76	98.14	− 0.17	0.94
IPS Portfolio Inc	93.21	99.69	+ 0.33	.
Premier Portfos Inc	71.30	76.26	+ 1.13	1.75
Roxburgh Strat Gth	79.56	85.09	+ 0.68	0.61
Slater Gwth	128.90	137.10	+ 1.80	.
International Strat	85.42	91.36	+ 0.28	.
UFC Int-Acr Grth	82.73	87.09	+ 0.31	.
Chartfield Port of Fds	54.88	59.55	+ 0.45	. .
Chartfield Sec	121.90	133.20	+ 0.50	
Lowes Intl Growth	53.87	56.71	− 0.15	. . .
PM UT MGRS LTD				
0171 588 3963				
Equity Gth	223.80	238.10†	− 0.60	1.54
European Gth	125.40	132.80	+ 1.90	0.97
Income & Gth #	152.20	161.90†	− 0.20	3.13
Japan Gth	116.70	124.20	− 0.50	.
Nth Amer Gth	207.70	221.00	+ 0.50	0.08
Overseas Gth	122.40	130.20	+ 0.46	0.03
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	269.50	286.70	. .	2.48
-do- Accum	582.40	619.50	. . .	2.46
Growth	177.70	187.10	+ 0.30	2.71
Income	264.50	281.30	+ 0.60	3.47
Intl Equity	291.80	310.40	− 0.50	0.84
-do- Accum	324.90	345.60	− 0.50	0.84
UK Income	72.25	76.85	+ 0.16	3.08
UK Intl 25	90.72	96.50	− 0.08	1.99
New Europe	96.72	102.80	+ 0.90	0.48
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	692.41	740.55	− 3.70	0.50
-do- Accum	695.12	743.45	− 3.71	0.50
Income	423.98	453.44	+ 0.24	3.08
Wwide Recovery	458.53	490.41	+ 1.17	0.51
Amer Growth Inc	292.92	312.43†	− 3.45	0.01
-do- Accum	292.92	312.43	− 3.45	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	287.28	307.23	− 0.65	0.08
Far East Gwth Inc	315.66	337.61	+ 3.23	0.80
-do- Accum	316.81	338.84	+ 3.24	0.80
Euro Gwth Inc	177.53	189.81	− 0.38	0.48
-do- Accum	178.14	190.26	− 0.39	0.48
UK Growth Inc	108.97	116.55†	− 2.35	2.58
-do- Accum	117.09	125.24	+ 0.16	2.56
High Income	110.77	118.48	+ 0.19	3.69
Jap Gwth Inc	217.89	231.95†	− 1.53	0.01
-do- Accum	217.89	231.95	− 1.53	0.01
PEP Growth	143.39	153.94	+ 0.35	0.87
Asian Str Mkts Inc	146.14	156.31	− 1.08	0.04
-do- Accum	146.49	156.68	− 1.08	0.04
Amer Smlr Co Inc	186.78	199.77	− 0.07	0.01
-do- Accum	186.78	199.77	− 0.07	0.01
Global Bond	57.14	60.16†	− 1.14	5.81
UK Smaller Cos Inc	101.81	108.90	+ 0.84	1.45
-do- Accum	107.12	114.57	+ 0.88	1.45
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 201 3927				
American	129.94	138.23	+ 2.46	.
European	90.34	96.11†	+ 3.19	. .
Global	70.89	75.41	+ 0.45	.
Pacific	84.90	90.04	− 0.07	
UK Inc & Gth	74.67	79.44	+ 0.14	2.08
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 420				
Fund of Funds	191.06	203.13	+ 1.64	0.59
Emrg Mkts	50.86	53.61†	− 0.10	0.97
High Income #	53.60	57.02†	− 0.34	5.78
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	163.67	174.12†	+ 1.00	1.90
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443				
American Income	118.20	125.80†		2.99
Conv & Gilt	115.50	122.90†	+ 1.80	5.74
European Income	85.95	91.44	+ 1.27	3.51
Extra Income	175.00	186.20	+ 2.60	5.09
-do- Accum	221.80	226.80	+ 3.20	5.09
Far East	439.10	467.10	+ 0.20	0.36
-do- Accum	448.30	477.00	+ 0.30	0.36
Global Income	29.00	30.85†	+ 0.08	4.84
High Income	133.78	142.30	+ 1.20	4.27
-do- Accum	165.20	175.80	+ 1.50	4.27
International	220.90	235.00	+ 2.10	0.65
-do- Accum	228.60	243.20	+ 2.10	0.65
Prnl & Fxd Int	43.57	46.35†	− 0.01	7.26
Recovery	83.32	88.64	+ 1.29	2.21

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits	134.90	143.50	+ 1.50	1.49
-do- Accum	146.50	158.00	+ 1.70	1.49
Technology	711.30	756.70	+ 6.30	. .
UK Blue Chip	81.60	86.81†	+ 0.56	3.37
-do- Accum	93.76	99.77	+ 0.66	3.37
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4490				
Managed Tst	44.20	45.80	− 0.37	1.59
Cash Haven Inc	101.07	101.57	+ 0.09	5.30
Cash Haven Acc	116.19	116.77	+ 0.10	5.30
Dist Trust Inc	104.59	108.38	+ 0.73	6.41
Dist Trust Acc	114.38	118.52	+ 0.80	6.41
Global Growth	104.38	111.02	+ 0.36	1.17
Equity Inc	90.22	95.97	+ 0.69	4.96
Equity	848.57	902.73	+ 4.25	2.15
European	256.73	266.04	+ 3.17	0.78
High Income	93.49	99.45	+ 0.58	5.14
Intl Gth	220.20	234.25	− 0.20	0.83
Intl Sm Co	94.80	100.85	+ 0.42	0.58
Japanese	224.45	232.68	+ 0.63	. . .
Nth Amer	223.19	241.64	− 2.65	1.14
Pacific Mkts	125.69	130.24	+ 0.03	0.27
Premier Inc	48.34	50.31	− 0.22	6.62
Sm Cos	105.80	112.65	+ 0.28	1.39
Spec Sits	123.99	131.90	+ 0.59	2.55
UK Growth	141.90	150.95	+ 0.65	2.05
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	334.60	354.90	− 1.10	3.07
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
FA America (Inc)	661.48	703.01	− 4.34	0.75
FA America (Acc)	773.60	822.17	− 5.08	0.75
FA UK Equity Inc	178.94	191.28	− 0.05	3.30
FA Japan	247.48	263.16	− 0.61	
FA Major UK Cos	109.71	116.99	+ 0.04	1.79
FA Smllr UK Cos	346.05	378.64	+ 4.21	1.08
FA European	398.46	423.52	+ 7.05	0.26
FA Amer Smllr Cos	57.78	61.94	− 0.09	
FA Asia	58.11	63.42	− 0.38	.
FA Jap Smllr Cos	42.82	45.75	+ 0.32	.
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	115.08	121.13	+ 0.03	
UK Smllr Cos	101.85	107.20	+ 1.15	
UK Income	114.74	120.77	− 0.03	
America	133.32	140.33	− 0.86	
Japanese	53.13	55.93	− 1.75	.
European	128.77	135.54	+ 2.44	
Gilt	95.43	100.48	− 1.02	.
Deposit	88.02	92.65	+ 0.07	. .
Managed	112.95	118.83	− 0.14	
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	111.90	117.78	+ 0.03	. .
UK Smaller Cos	99.32	104.54	+ 1.13	.
UK Income	111.77	117.64	− 0.04	
America	129.56	136.37	− 0.84	.
Japanese	53.13	55.92	− 0.13	.
European	125.28	131.86	+ 2.36	
Gilt	93.76	98.88	− 0.60	.
Deposit	84.18	88.61	+ 0.08	.
Managed	105.89	111.46	− 0.13	.
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	111.70	119.10	− 0.70	0.26
Pacific Basin	84.83	91.14	+ 0.78	0.25
High Inc Dist	153.50	164.00	+ 0.10	4.16
Ryl Life Inf Cmr?	82.56	86.24†	− 0.10	4.04
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	78.52	83.73	− 0.24	0.12
Ryl Life Intl Spec	72.76	77.40		
UK Emerging Cos	149.30	161.20	+ 3.10	0.95
UK Index Trckg	189.80	202.10	+ 1.00	1.56
European	158.20	169.70	+ 1.30	0.28
Managed	175.70	188.90†	+ 0.70	0.63
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	190.60	202.70†	− 2.30	1.59
European Growth	133.40	141.40†	+ 2.40	2.32
Far East Growth	158.40	168.60†	− 0.90	1.80
Japan Growth	135.20	143.70	.	
Special Sits	234.60	249.50	− 0.70	1.19
UK Growth	92.98	98.91	+ 0.09	1.97
Triton General	286.10	304.40	+ 0.30	0.97
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	181.70	192.30	− 0.40	0.34
Gr Euro Prog Inc	381.60	403.80	+ 4.30	0.46
-do- Accum	596.50	631.20	+ 6.90	0.46
Growth Inc	150.30	159.00	− 0.80	0.22
-do- Accum	154.10	163.10	− 0.70	0.22
International Inc	389.60	413.30	− 1.10	0.16
-do- Accum	537.10	568.40	− 1.50	0.16
Nth Am & Intl Inc	402.00	425.40	− 3.70	0.44
UK Gen Prog Inc	240.60	254.60	+ 0.40	1.02
-do- Accum	275.60	291.60	+ 0.40	1.02
UK High Inc Inc	142.40	150.70	− 0.10	4.78
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
American Gwth	78.50	83.51	− 1.57	. . .
Asian Gwth	130.72	139.06	− 2.32	0.75
European Gwth	87.47	93.05	+ 2.71	1.00
Global Bd	62.10	65.61	− 0.37	5.00
Global Eq	66.00	70.21	− 0.45	0.50
Japan Sm Cos	57.25	60.90	+ 0.09	
UK Gwth	83.28	88.59	+ 1.14	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
01708 766 966				
Amer Inc & Gwth #	90.41	96.18	− 1.12	3.28
Amer Smllr Cos	146.30	155.60†	− 0.80	
Asian Smaller Cos	46.56	49.53	+ 0.24	
Capital Portfolio	145.50	154.80	+ 0.70	1.88
Cash	131.90	131.90	+ 0.10	5.73
China Dragon	66.98	71.26	− 0.88	1.39
Commodity	156.40	166.40†	+ 3.80	. .
Eastern Discovery	112.70	119.80	− 0.60	.
Emerging Mkts	38.95	41.44	− 0.34	.
Energy Inds.	146.70	156.10†	+ 0.10	6.24
European Gwth	222.50	236.70	+ 1.50	0.47
Euro Inc & Gwth #	90.16	95.91†	+ 0.25	1.77
Euro Smllr Cos	67.99	72.33	+ 0.48	0.11
Extra Income #	55.15	56.67†	− 0.26	6.15
Financial Secs	269.50	286.70	+ 0.80	0.89
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc #	47.65	50.31†	− 2.07	9.30
Gold & Exploration	112.60	119.80†	+ 3.20	. . .
High Return #	249.50	265.40	. . .	4.20
High Yield #	253.20	269.40	. . .	3.44
Income #	129.30	137.60†	− 0.20	3.88
Intl Bond	170.50	180.00†	− 4.10	5.78
ITU	235.90	251.00	− 1.30	0.74
Japan Growth	178.50	189.80	− 0.50	. . .
Japan Smaller	179.00	190.40	− 0.80	.
Korea	61.05	64.95	− 1.39	. .
Masterfund	63.06	67.09	+ 0.08	0.84
Southern Africa	69.12	73.53	− 0.61	1.52
Scotbits	402.60	428.30	+ 1.30	0.85
Scotshares #	337.30	358.80	+ 0.59	1.82
Scotyields #	268.60	285.70†	+ 0.50	2.91
Select Intl	155.00	164.90	+ 0.20	0.45
Smaller Cos Inc #	251.00	267.00	+ 2.20	3.77
SE Asia	58.96	62.72	− 0.77	0.19
Special Situation	150.40	160.00	+ 0.30	1.77
UK Equity #	279.80	297.70†	− 0.70	2.49
UK Growth	76.68	81.58	+ 0.26	1.62
UK & O'seas	194.10	206.50	+ 0.40	1.09
UK Smllr Cos Gwth	56.19	59.78†	+ 0.80	1.34
US Growth	204.40	217.40†	− 2.70	. .
Univ Growth	158.90	169.00	+ 0.20	0.36
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	329.02	348.74	− 4.94	0.89
-do- Accum	361.98	383.67	− 5.43	0.89
European Gwth.	88.99	94.38	+ 0.60	0.78
Euro Smlr Cos	104.20	110.83	+ 1.13	0.21
Far Eastern Gth	113.70	121.27†	+ 2.82	. .
-do- Accum	115.89	123.61†	+ 2.80	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	50.91	53.67†	− 1.75	7.66
Global Bond #	53.01	54.79	+ 0.05	7.13
-do- Accum #	81.41	83.47	+ 0.05	7.13
Global Emer Mkts	57.11	60.91	− 0.28	0.08
-do- Accum	57.16	60.96	− 0.29	0.08
Income #	401.19	427.93†	− 6.01	4.98
-do- Accum #	£13.30	£14.19†	+ 8.40	4.98
Japan Smllr Cos	445.31	474.98	− 0.25	0.01
-do- Accum	446.20	475.93	− 0.26	0.01
Japan Enterprise	70.31	74.99	+ 0.04	.
Pacific Gwth	163.70	174.61†	− 0.02	0.25
-do- Accum	169.60	180.90†	− 0.02	0.25
Portfolio	92.40	98.56†	+ 0.30	1.86
-do- Accum	101.92	108.78†	+ 0.33	1.86
Seoul	48.47	51.70	− 1.30	.
-do- Accum	48.47	51.70	− 1.30	
Smaller Cos	272.05	290.19	+ 3.12	1.31
Strategic Inc	98.84	105.35	+ 0.40	1.93
Strategic Acc	98.84	105.35	+ 0.40	1.93
Tokyo	129.81	138.46†	− 0.25	.
-do- Accum	131.12	139.85†	− 0.26	. . .
UK Enterprise	322.62	344.12	+ 4.45	2.04
-do- Accum	393.95	420.20	+ 5.43	2.04
UK Equity	287.55	306.71	+ 1.91	2.45
-do- Accum	571.87	609.78	+ 3.80	2.45
US Smllr Cos	216.10	230.50	+ 2.43	. .
-do- Accum	216.10	230.50	+ 2.43	.
Institutional Funds				
European	283.06	293.84†	+ 3.65	1.32
-do- Accum	318.01	330.12†	+ 3.97	1.32
Euro Smllr Cos	34.73	36.17	+ 0.55	1.15
-do- Accum	37.31	38.86	+ 0.59	1.15
Global Equity Inc	90.90	94.68	− 0.55	0.89
Japan Smllr Cos.	38.42	40.02	− 0.02	0.16
-do- Accum	38.75	40.37	− 0.02	0.16
Mngd Balanced	218.40	227.50†	− 2.44	2.87
-do- Accum	254.88	265.50†	+ 1.05	2.87
Overseas Equity	224.08	233.41	− 0.04	1.05
-do- Accum	234.04	243.78	− 0.05	1.05
Oseas Smllr Cos	146.28	152.37†	+ 1.20	0.90
-do- Accum	154.17	160.59†	+ 1.26	0.90
Pacific	294.55	306.82	− 0.72	1.13
-do- Accum	325.47	339.03	− 0.80	1.13
Recovery	£22.23	£23.16†	+ 34.42	2.92
-do- Accum	£24.13	£25.14†	+ 37.36	2.92
UK Index	177.31	184.61	− 0.12	3.27
-do- Accum	223.08	232.25	− 0.15	3.27
UK Small Cos	130.10	135.52†	+ 0.90	2.60
-do- Accum	142.62	148.77†	+ 0.98	2.60
US Smllr Cos	62.86	65.47	+ 0.34	0.51
-do- Accum	64.29	66.97	+ 0.35	0.51
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2300				
Equity Income	57.40	60.79	. . .	3.22
Equity Trust	72.31	76.47	− 0.26	3.09
Equity Strategy	85.04	89.93	+ 0.13	1.38
European Opps	104.20	110.20	+ 1.06	0.97
UK Smaller Cos	74.45	78.73	+ 1.04	1.16
Maximum Inc	98.31	100.86	+ 0.09	6.33
Japanese	81.22	85.89	+ 0.36	. . .
Asia Pacific	138.24	146.19	.	0.74
American	131.38	138.93	− 3.28	0.38
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	32.39	32.39	+ 0.03	5.750
UK General Inc	80.43	84.45	+ 0.28	3.20
-do- Accum	79.42	84.69	+ 0.36	3.20
Intl Income	297.60	317.50†	− 0.10	1.68
-do- Accum	520.00	554.70†	− 0.20	1.68
European	97.05	102.84	+ 1.45	1.74
Japan	70.50	74.75†	+ 0.19	.
American	91.76	97.17	− 1.28	1.64
Far East	97.38	103.86	+ 0.12	1.25
Ethical Inc	36.35	38.66†	+ 0.19	1.92
UK Blue Chip Inc	37.88	40.51†	− 0.13	3.04
High Inc Inc	40.25	42.93†	− 0.14	3.63
UK Global Inc	46.22	49.39†	− 0.04	1.78
Wwide Tact	80.70	86.23	+ 0.30	1.00
Europe 2000 Tact	65.99	70.24	+ 0.93	1.25
Technology	150.82	160.49†	+ 0.53	0.89
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	454.50	484.60	+ 2.40	2.76
American	341.40	364.10	− 5.60	0.53
Pacific	431.60	461.60	− 0.80	0.32
European	655.50	701.10	+ 4.30	1.07
Worldwide	104.20	111.40	+ 0.30	0.62
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	311.60	331.60	+ 2.00	2.22
-do- Accum	403.60	429.40	+ 2.50	2.22
UK Sir Co Eq Inc	250.60	266.60	+ 2.40	1.27
-do- Accum	306.50	326.10	+ 3.00	1.27
Select Opprtny Inc	80.50	86.10†	− 1.45	1.67
Income Plus Inc	80.66	85.81†	− 2.19	3.33
European Inc	414.10	440.60	+ 4.50	1.25
-do- Accum	471.70	501.90	+ 5.10	1.25
Far Eastern Inc	197.80	210.50	− 1.90	0.53
-do- Accum	227.40	242.00	− 1.40	0.53
Japanese Inc	63.50	67.56	− 0.05	.
Nth American Inc	311.50	331.40	− 7.10	0.34
-do- Accum	344.47	366.40	− 7.80	0.34

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	233.80	248.80	− 1.00	0.60
Wwide Venture Inc	91.58	97.86†	− 0.37	0.37
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	421.00	449.00	.	2.43
-do- Accum	632.30	674.40	− 0.10	2.43
UK High Inc	204.90	218.50	− 1.10	3.41
-do- Accum	307.20	327.60	− 1.50	3.41
Europe Inc	456.20	486.60	+ 1.20	0.39
Nth Amer Inc	307.60	328.10	+ 0.70	. . .
Global Inc	253.90	270.80	+ 1.60	0.22
Global Acc	273.50	291.70	+ 1.70	0.22
UK Spec Sits Inc	119.80	127.80	+ 0.10	2.70
South East Asia	251.70	268.50	− 1.50	0.34
Cash Trust Inc	101.10	101.10	+ 0.10	6.00
UK Smllr Cos Inc	118.69	126.50	+ 1.00	1.75
-do- Accum	123.50	131.70	+ 1.10	1.75
Intl Bond Inc	97.20	103.20	− 0.40	5.51
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	154.40	162.50	+ 1.90	8.73
Nth American	138.60	145.90	− 1.50	0.02
Intl Bond & Conv	128.10	134.80	− 0.10	6.68
Pooled Pension (E)	225.39	242.30	− 0.30	1.96
Smaller Cos	103.90	109.40	+ 0.60	0.82
UK General	155.30	163.50	+ 0.10	2.52
Far Eastern	107.60	113.30	− 0.40	
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 628 8228				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	170.08		− 1.01	.
Aztec ‡	66.67	. .	− 1.14	
European ‡	158.37	. . .	− 0.68	0.29
Global Bond ‡	98.13	.	+ 0.35	7.78
Investment Trust ‡	110.87		− 0.24	1.96
Preferred Income ‡	105.54		+ 0.57	5.67
Samurai ‡	56.81	. . .	− 0.38	.
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.09		+ 0.10	6.05
UK Growth ‡	108.59	.	+ 0.34	2.32
Tal Pan ‡	111.50	.	− 0.53	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	110.12	. .	+ 0.26	2.74
UK Equity Inc ‡	114.60	.	+ 0.81	5.25
Glob Gwth PEP	73.69	78.39	+ 0.50	1.25
Pref Inc PEP #	103.10	108.80	− 0.10	5.50
Inv Trust PEP	55.62	59.17	+ 0.96	.
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	440.20	465.70	+ 8.80	.
Canadian	76.75	81.20	+ 0.26	0.59
Capital	144.20	154.00†	− 0.30	1.84
Cash	102.10	102.10	+ 0.09	5.79
European	158.20	167.40	+ 3.00	0.89
Far Eastern	168.80	178.80	+ 1.20	
Growth	159.00	168.20†	− 0.11	1.10
Income #	134.20	142.00†	− 5.80	4.75
Magnum	156.30	165.90†	− 0.40	1.83
Smllr Secs	490.60	519.10	+ 2.90	0.36
Thoroughbred	181.70	194.10†	− 0.50	1.48
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01202 298 422				
Cosmo Primose	55.93	59.81	+ 0.37	7.00
Ethical	75.70	81.39†	− 0.42	0.29
European Growth	82.71	87.98	+ 0.97	1.13
Income	59.97	64.48	+ 0.20	4.30
Intl Growth	113.90	121.40	+ 1.70	1.17
Managed	93.94	100.20	+ 0.63	1.95
UK Growth	74.97	80.60	+ 0.02	1.14
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	45.02	46.26†		1.80
Global Advtg Acc	49.88	50.13	− 0.01	1.80
Income Advtg Inc	35.63	36.01	− 0.32	3.30
Income Advtg Acc	41.11	41.32	− 0.05	3.30
UK Equity Gth Acc	88.23	94.59	+ 0.48	1.10
Premier Inc Inc	47.74	50.25	− 1.38	7.74
Premier Inc Acc	49.49	52.09	− 0.55	7.74
Managed Acc	60.49	64.12	− 0.14	1.58
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	41.45	43.94	.	3.71
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	53.11	56.30	. .	3.71
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	74.15	78.79	− 0.12	2.24
UK Equity Gen Inc	54.04	57.42	− 0.08	2.24
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	31.62	33.44	− 0.33	6.66
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	366.09	397.20	− 2.40	1.91
Nth American Acc	57.93	61.56	− 0.80	0.26
Pacific Basin	49.06	52.13	− 0.40	0.68
European Acc	58.87	62.55	+ 0.48	1.73
Japan Acc	28.15	29.91	+ 0.08	
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7060				
Global A (NZ$)	4.336	4.598	+ 0.02	1.75
US Eqts (US$)	3.180	3.374	+ 0.05	0.94
Far East Eqts (yen)	257.80	273.80	− 1.40	
FT Europe	151.80	161.20	+ 3.70	1.21
FT N Amer (US$)	2.409	2.529	+ 0.04	0.42
FT Japan (yen)	230.00	243.80	− 2.80	
FT Asia Ex-Jap (US$)	2.901	3.081	− 0.03	0.80
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	504.10	534.60	+ 3.80	.
British #	1222.80	1293.70	+ 1.10	3.03
Emrging Mkts	151.30	161.20	+ 1.80	0.69
European	658.60	698.90	+ 6.20	0.67
Japan	139.40	148.20	+ 1.20	
New Pacific	445.40	474.30	+ 0.70	1.38
-do- Accum	474.80	505.80	+ 0.70	1.38
Inv Trust Acc	297.00	314.80	− 0.20	0.83
Mngd Equity	199.10	210.60	+ 0.70	1.58
Mngd Cash	96.09	96.09	+ 0.07	5.65
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 389				
Equity	1009.00	1079.00	+ 15.00	2.39
North America	178.30	190.70	− 2.50	.
Far East	176.10	188.30	− 0.60	
Wwide Bond	61.77	65.55	− 0.09	5.05
European	125.20	133.90	+ 1.70	1.16
Equity Income #	104.70	112.00	+ 1.00	4.58
Portfolio	104.80	112.10	+ 0.50	1.64
UK Leading Cos	72.40	77.23	+ 0.37	2.55
Broker Trusts				
Intnl Equity	75.04	80.25	+ 0.36	.
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Antares UT	25.10	26.71†	− 0.31	0.70
European	47.24	50.26†	− 0.33	0.50
High Income	35.08	37.30	− 0.17	4.01
Japan	37.05	39.42†	+ 0.06	0.01
Managed Assets	141.11	150.03	− 0.08	2.52
North American	41.54	44.20†	− 0.31	0.68
Smlr Co's Inc	33.98	36.15	+ 0.28	2.05
Smlr Co's Acc	36.74	39.09†	+ 0.32	2.05
UK Growth Inc	62.25	66.23	+ 0.21	2.77
UK Growth Acc	68.79	73.19†	− 0.12	2.77
UK Income	44.78	47.90	− 0.02	3.27
Worldwide Grth	40.75	43.59	− 0.19	0.21
Confederation				
Canadian Exmpt	69.27	71.35		1.84
European Exmpt	95.87	98.84†	+ 0.35	1.63
Pacific Exmpt	65.74	67.78	− 0.55	0.97
US Exmpt	96.14	99.12	− 1.76	1.35
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	58.05	61.75	+ 0.82	.
Cap Protector Inc	45.30	48.19	+ 0.08	2.78
UK Income Inc	57.95	61.65†	+ 0.30	3.19
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	35.09	37.30†	+ 0.16	5.09
Mngd High Yld Inc	86.93	92.48†	+ 0.10	4.38
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	84.17	89.54	+ 0.45	3.27
UK Smaller Cos	39.55	42.07	+ 0.18	1.70
Pacific Gth Port	55.53	59.07†	+ 0.30	0.69
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 345 794				
American	289.59	306.45	− 3.49	.
-do- Accum	318.97	337.54	− 3.85	. .
Brit Growth	113.76	120.38	+ 0.47	1.89
-do- Accum	139.42	147.53	+ 0.58	1.89
European	124.37	131.61	+ 1.15	. .
-do- Accum	132.37	140.07	+ 1.22	.
Extra Income	210.00	222.22†	+ 4.08	3.84
-do- Accum	375.73	397.59†	+ 7.26	3.84
Smaller Cos	83.83	88.70†	+ 0.01	0.67
-do- Accum	95.64	101.21†	+ 0.41	0.67
General	336.09	355.66†	+ 1.87	2.20
-do- Accum	709.98	751.30†	+ 3.94	2.20
Premier Income	50.44	52.55†	− 0.21	6.74
-do- Accum	121.67	126.74†	− 0.51	6.74
Income	366.27	387.59	+ 2.17	3.53
-do- Accum	831.92	880.34	+ 4.92	3.53
Pacific	455.71	482.23	− 1.68	.
-do- Accum	478.83	506.70	− 1.78	. .
International	640.41	677.66	− 1.88	. .
-do- Accum	843.76	892.87	− 2.48	
Nat Resources	216.01	228.58	+ 10.57	
Sictd Opps	129.79	137.35	+ 1.21	1.63
-do- Accum	167.85	177.62	+ 1.56	1.63
Environmental Inv	72.92	77.17†	+ 0.15	1.44
Selector	72.14	76.33	+ 0.43	1.38
-do- Accum	82.91	87.73	+ 0.49	1.38
High Income	68.74	72.74	+ 0.23	4.29
-do- Accum	91.55	96.88	+ 0.32	4.29
Intl Income	64.71	68.48	+ 0.02	5.15
-do- Accum	82.86	87.69	+ 0.02	5.15
Selector Income	66.43	70.30	+ 0.17	4.00
-do- Accum	81.23	86.06	+ 0.20	4.00
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 667 1018				
British	382.06	402.16†	− 4.62	2.68
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	230.04	245.03†	+ 0.20	2.41
Glob Balncd Inc	193.20	205.63	− 0.21	3.46
Value Tst Inc	141.16	150.87	+ 0.73	1.78
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	44.65	46.44	− 0.01	6.10
European Growth	332.59	349.26	+ 6.24	0.79
Exempt	625.08	652.54†	+ 3.58	2.70
Global Em Mkts	87.59	91.71	− 1.73	0.10
Japan Tst	82.88	86.78	+ 0.99	
Little Dragons	103.49	108.36	− 1.66	.
Nth Amer Gwth	292.17	305.93†	− 5.24	0.60
Oriental Income #	49.89	52.24	+ 0.08	3.10
Preference	131.42	137.61	+ 0.15	8.96
Tiger	320.44	335.53	− 4.06	.
UK Blue Chip	73.78	77.25†	+ 0.42	2.60
UK Growth	616.07	645.09	+ 5.81	2.30
UK High Yield #	112.66	117.96†	+ 0.46	5.00
UK Mid-Cap	297.06	311.05	+ 3.71	2.60
UK Smllr Cos	119.96	128.29	+ 0.40	0.80
UK Smllr Cos Div #	89.78	94.01†	+ 1.12	5.78
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 336				
UK Equity Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Equity Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
European	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nth American	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Far Eastern	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Money	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fixed Interest	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Index Linked Gilt	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Index Tracking	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WAVERLEY UT MGT LTD				
0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific Basin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Global Bond (US$)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penny Share	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Challenger	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Short Dtd Gilt	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
US Govt Bd (US$)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gilt Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gilt Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Stockmarket	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corporate Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. [illegible] # Periodic Charge [illegible] Charge.

هكذا من الأصل

Positive end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq	511	- 6	5.8	18.5
560	390	Bulmer (HP)	559	..	2.8	17.5
146	99	Burn Stewart	120		5.2	25.8
467	352	Grand Met†	437	+ 3	4.3	18.8
536	404	Guinness	459		3.8	14.2
445	315	Highland Distl	356	- 2	2.8	16.2
217	157	Macallan-Glen	163	- 1	1.0	36.1
710	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	636		2.1	17.9
694	532	Matthew Clark†	683	+ 5	4.0	
140	61	Mrnydown W	103	- 5	2.4	
2612½	1287½	SA Breweries	2275		1.5	32.2

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3116¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3109¾	+ 71¼	4.1	11.7
663	413	Abbey Nat	581	+ 7½	4.8	10.8
385	250	Allied Irish†	344	+ 1	4.2	
336	198	Aus New Z	329	+ 10	5.0	
4725	2531¼	Bank America†	4675	- 37½		
316	191½	Bank Scotland	278	+ 1½	2.8	12.3
819	557½	Barclays	782	+ 6	4.2	8.9
488	288	Bk of Ireland	457	+ 4	3.7	9.2
525	418	Cater Allen	467		8.0	7.7
6125	2450	Citicorp	5106¼	- 18¾		
392	216½	Close Bros	390	+ 6	2.8	17.3
£162¾	£129¾	Commerzbk	£149¾	- 59¾	3.6	
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1228¾	+ 21¼	0.4	
3321¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3284¾	+ 18¾	2.2	
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	784¾		4.6	10.4
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1312½	+ 9½	0.4	
480	395	Gerard Nat	418		6.7	13.5
253	180	Hambros	212	+ 1½	4.4	
1125	589	HSBC	1084	+ 8½	3.8	12.3
1089	578	HSBC Hk	1061	+ 7½	3.9	12.0
421	228	Irish Perm	405		3.2	
463	353	Joseph (L)	450		5.2	15.5
165	85	King Shaxson	155		7.3	12.0
350	308	Lloyds TSB†	320½	+ 2	3.0	17.7
640	479	Nat Aust Bk	629	+ 5	6.6	8.5
711	454	Nat West†	693	+ 2	4.6	9.7
67	44	Rea Brothers	60		2.1	24.0
639½	373½	Royl Bk Scot	557	+ 5	3.6	12.6
1478	906¾	Schroders	1270		1.4	18.1
1180	823½	Schroders N/V	998	- 2	1.8	14.2
113	81	Singer & Fried	110		4.2	11.4
692½	246	Stand Chart	640	+ 6	2.2	13.8
121	70	Unon	102		3.7	
£169	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£161¾	- 125	1.9	
317½	211	Westpac	311½	+ 2¾	4.5	
305	200	Wintrust†	304		4.8	17.4

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West Indies come to terms with sharp decline

Michael Henderson, in Pune, and **Simon Wilde** look at the hard choices that must be made to revive a team that once dominated world cricket

The West Indians rubbed their eyes yesterday morning and hoped that the events of Thursday had all been a disturbing dream. Alas, the genie was out of the bottle. They really had lost a World Cup match to Kenya, much to the rest of the world's delight, and it was time for some hard, straight talking.

Wes Hall, the team manager, and Richie Richardson, the beleagured captain, held a lengthy series of meetings with the players at the team's hotel. Before long, both will be asked to resign their commissions. The defeat — by 73 runs — marks a turning point in Caribbean cricket. No words can explain it and nobody can escape the consequences.

There were many calls in the Caribbean yesterday for the resignations of Richardson and Hall, not to mention Andy Roberts, the coach, or the selectors. Those hailing from Richardson's region of the Leeward Islands spread the blame throughout the team; those from Trinidad, the home of Brian Lara, looked for the head of the captain.

"I wonder if the West Indies team is committed to winning," Pedro Corbin, the secretary-treasurer of the Leeward Islands Cricket Association, said. "Many people still believe there are apparent problems in the camp. I don't think Richardson is getting the support ... there are people in the camp trying to undermine him."

Alloy Lequay, the president of the Trinidad and Tobago board, said that Richardson's future had to be dealt with. "That certainly would be a major item for discussion now because, under the present leadership, the team has gone from one point down the ladder until they've reached the last rung."

It is not difficult to sympathise with Richardson. He is a gentle, courteous man and used to be a wonderful batsman, but he has never been an imaginative or a strong-willed captain and, since regaining the captaincy from Courtney Walsh last year, has failed to command the dressing-room. The team must make a fresh start with a new leader and willing young players, but it is not apparent who or where they are.

Those who support Lara's candidacy delude themselves. This young man, so gifted yet so wilful, remains a child at heart. In cricketing terms, he is an adolescent. Nor can Walsh supply the long-term answer. At 33, he is the team's senior professional, but there are indications that he is becoming detached from that role. The only realistic alternative within the team is Jimmy Adams, the thoughtful Jamaican, but he has problems too, having lost his form.

Within the past year, West Indies have lost a Test series at home for the first time in 22 years, drawn with England after twice leading the rubber and failed to make the finals of a one-day competition in Australia that involved only two other teams.

The loss of status has been accompanied by a loss of self-respect. Winston Benjamin was sent home from England for insubordination. Lara, Ambrose and Kenny Benjamin were subsequently ordered to account for their behaviour on that tour and warned about their future conduct. The team is drained of spirit and it is that, more than any defeat, however humbling, that the West Indies Board of Control (WICBC) must address.

West Indies sides have always been riven by factions, but the teams run by Clive Lloyd and, to a lesser extent, Vivian Richards, were able to accommodate people who did not necessarily like each other. In a losing side, personal enmities are more difficult to contain.

Before they go to Australia later this year for a Test series, West Indies must perform some urgent surgery. Ambrose, Benjamin, even Walsh must go. Arthurton and Hooper are mere drawers of water. Richardson, poor chap, is a broken reed. Clear the lot out. In time, they can regroup around Adams, Bishop and — when he grows up — Lara. If they are sensible, they will appoint Malcolm Marshall as coach immediately.

That said, the problems are more deep-seated. The West Indies board is paying the price for having so long failed to implement proper development programmes in the Caribbean. "The WICBC will have to take a very surgical look at West Indies cricket," Mike Findlay, a former West Indies wicketkeeper, said yesterday. "We have really done little to produce players. They have just emerged."

It would be dishonest to disavow a touch of *schadenfreude*. For years, West Indies lauded it over everybody. In Pune, on Thursday, they looked pitiful. They have been brought low by their own arrogance and must now acquire some humility.

Rival captains united in fear of defeat

From Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, in Karachi

THERE will be a rare tension in the steamy air of the National Stadium here tomorrow and it will be concerned less with the result of a World Cup game, or even with the World Cup itself, than with the destiny of two teams and their leaders.

On the face of it, Pakistan against England is an interesting but inconsequential fixture, from which the winners may claim some psychological gain while the losers simply adjust their travel plans for the quarter-finals.

Yet there is an overriding plot to this match, one that defies either team to lose without painful repercussions. Pakistan are defending the Cup on home soil and a single defeat, against South Africa, has opened the internal wounds traditional to their talented turmoil of a team. England have never won the Cup and are unlikely to do so here. The longer the defeats continue, the louder will be the clamour for change.

At the centre of the uncertainty lie the two captains. Wasim Akram and Michael Atherton are team-mates at Lancashire, but they will be linked tomorrow by a stronger bond — the knowledge that their jobs will not survive too many more setbacks.

For Wasim, this is nothing new — he has regained the position only after four changes in little more than a year. Captains are easily expendable in Pakistan. England captains, however, are rarer beings, which is why the predicament facing Atherton is somehow more personal. It would be wholly inappropriate if Atherton were to lose the job in the backwash of an ill-fated one-day campaign, when he has become a sound, respected and unchallenged Test match captain. Yet it could happen and the bandwagon of which he spoke this week will be rolling with renewed vigour if England suffer another defeat.

This has been a trying week for Atherton and it showed no improvement yesterday. In the manicured elegance of the Karachi Gymkhana Club, England contrived to lose a practice match against a club team. The opposition, labelled Karachi City, did include Russell and Thorpe, members of the England party, and was led by Moin Khan, one of the four recent Pakistan captains, but it was still discouraging that the England attack failed to defend 264.

The Pakistanis are a ceremonial race and the presentations afterwards would have done justice to the World Cup final itself, but they proceeded without Atherton, whose gift had to be collected for him by Alec Stewart. Officially, Atherton was indisposed, which, in these parts, can mean feeling highly uncomfortable, but his absence will still have done nothing for his blemished public image.

Such minor matters become exaggerated when a team is losing and England have been losing too often. Atherton believes that the trend can be arrested tomorrow, a theme developed by Raymond Illingworth, the manager. "I think we can beat Pakistan," he said firmly. "We have had our best practice sessions over the past three days and today's game was simply a good workout. The batsmen should all be in better form now and, if we can improve the early part of our innings, we will be competitive."

Precisely who will share with Atherton the responsibility for that critical phase remains unresolved. Illingworth has pulled rank on only one matter, insisting that Jack Russell remains as wicketkeeper. This restricts England to five batsmen and the choice between Stewart and Robin Smith for his opening partner will probably rest with Atherton himself.

Dermot Reeve scored 82 from 91 balls yesterday and, at No 7, would give England more depth and resilience. His bowling looked rusty, but he may well play as one of four seamers, especially as Peter Martin is troubled once more by the back spasms that afflict him several times a year.

All that can be said about Pakistan's team is that it will not be the one chosen against South Africa on Thursday, when they ludicrously relied on two seam bowlers. To play a full complement of bowlers, however, they must weaken their batting, which could mean Javed Miandad again being excluded.

This would not be popular in Karachi, Miandad's hometown, nor with his loyal followers within the team. Miandad is almost 39, but he retains a wide influence and alternatives to the official reason (a back strain) for his absence on Thursday are being whispered excitedly here. Wasim, doubtless, has long since learnt to watch his back, but the reaction to another defeat without Miandad would inevitably target him as captain.

Pakistan should still win, though a fresh sight of their internal frailties will give England heart. As to the labyrinth of quarter-final logistics, the one certainty is that defeat for England tomorrow will see them off to Faisalabad. Things did not exactly go well last time they played there, either.

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

CHRIS TURVEY

Stewart, appealing for leg-before, and Thorpe were on opposing sides yesterday

Jumbo's brother flying high on his own account

From Patricia Davies in Miami

PERHAPS it was because the only jumbos on view were the ones roaring overhead on their way to or from Miami International Airport that Naomichi Ozaki had the temerity to surge into the lead with a second round of 65 in the Doral Ryder Open golf tournament yesterday.

Ozaki, known as Joe, is one of three golfing brothers, but he and Jet tend to be overshadowed by the Japan No 1, the incomparable Jumbo. However, even Jumbo would have been content with the flawless round that his baby brother put together on a breezy morning to move from three under par to ten under. He did not drop a shot and, with a two-round score of 134, found himself a stroke ahead of Lee Janzen, the first-round leader, and two ahead of a group including Raymond Floyd, three times a winner here.

Floyd, eight under par with three holes to play, was paired with John Daly, the Open champion, who was not at his best — eight over par and facing a miserable weekend.

The computer was predicting that the cut would be made at 143, one under par, which meant that Bernhard Langer was in bad shape on 145. He completed a first round of 72 in the morning, followed up with a 73 that included two costly bogeys. Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle, late starters, also had no margin for error after opening rounds of 72.

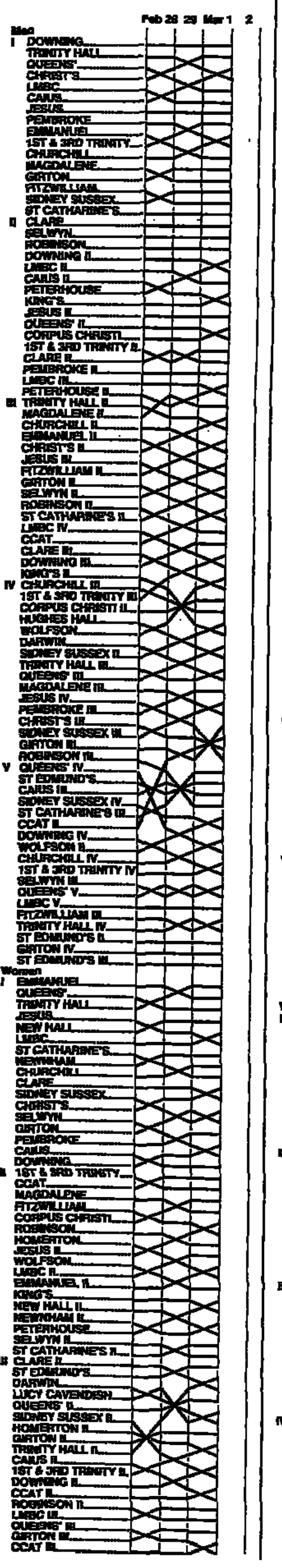
Faldo, the defending champion, was so dissatisfied with his striking yesterday — four birdies were cancelled out by four bogeys — that he abandoned all thoughts of a relaxing afternoon and headed for the practice ground.

Lyle did the same after overcoming the handicap of starting with a bogey six at his opening hole, the 10th. Although 563 yards in length, it presents a birdie opportunity, but Lyle, perhaps a trifle ambitious so early in the round, dumped his second shot in the water.

☐ Gale-force winds caused the abandonment of the second round of the Catalan Open tournament at the Bonmont club near Tarragona yesterday. It is hoped that 18 holes can be played today and 36 tomorrow.

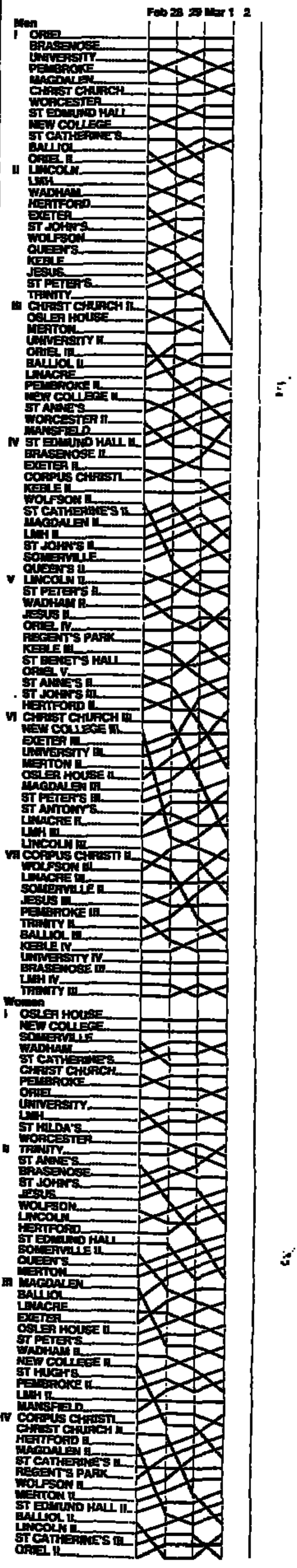
CAMBRIDGE LENTS

DOWNING held off a strong challenge by Christ's to finish half a length clear on the third day of the Cambridge Lent races yesterday.



OXFORD TORPIDS

A REROW in the men's second division on the third day of the Oxford University Torpids means that the results are subject to confirmation.



Zimbabwe bow before Waugh

By Simon Wilde

AUSTRALIA moved level on points with Sri Lanka at the top of group A and improved their run-rate in completing an efficient demolition of a disappointing Zimbabwe in Nagpur yesterday. Mark Waugh added an unbeaten 76 to his two previous centuries and Shane Warne took four for 34 on a turning pitch.

Australia won by eight wickets with 14 overs to spare and, with West Indies to come on Monday, show no signs of letting up their pace. Zimbabwe capitulated for 154 in 45.3 overs, a target that they had no chance of defending, though Paul Strang, their leg spinner, again bowled promisingly to claim two wickets after being belatedly introduced. Zimbawe's decision to bat first on a relatively small ground probably saved them from even more punishment.

The only Zimbabwe batsmen to play with authority was Andy Waller, who batted through the first 36 overs of the innings for a sensible 67. Australia once again were disciplined in the field and Waller's run out began a collapse in which the last five wickets fell for 28 runs.

Had Australia been chasing a larger total, Waugh might well have joined Viv Richards and Ramiz Raja as the only players to have scored three hundreds in World Cup matches. His 76 spanned 109 balls and contained ten fours.

In Lahore, the United Arab Emirates beat Holland with unexpected ease in the battle to avoid the group B wooden spoon. Set 217 to win, the Emirates were launched on their way by some dazzling hitting from Saleem Raza, an expatriate playing in the city of his birth.

Raza's 84 occupied only 68 balls and contained seven fours and six sixes, after which the result was in little doubt. An unbeaten stand of 82 in 99 balls between Mehra and Mohammad Ishaq saw the Emirates home by seven wickets with 28 balls to spare. Shaukat Dukanwala, an off-spin bowler, took five wickets in Holland's innings of 216 for nine.

Sultan Zarawani, the Emirates captain, reflected on his team's performance in their first World Cup. "We need a professional coach to polish our skills," he said. "We have learnt a lot from the tournament and, hopefully, this will be put to good use in the future."

YESTERDAY'S DETAILS

GROUP A

NAGPUR (Zimbabwe won toss): Australia (2pts) bt Zimbabwe by 8 wickets

ZIMBABWE

A C Waller run out	67
G W Flower b McGrath	4
G J Whittall c and b S R Waugh	6
A D R Campbell c M E Waugh b S R Waugh	5
†A Flower st Healy b Warne	7
C Evans c Healy b Warne	18
H H Streak c S R Waugh b Fleming	13
P A Strang not out	16
B Strang b Fleming	0
S G Peall c Healy b Warne	0
A P C Lock b Warne	5
Extras (lb 8, w 3, nb 2)	13
Total (45.3 overs)	154

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-41, 3-55, 4-68, 5-106, 6-126, 7-140, 8-140, 9-145.

BOWLING: McGrath 8-2-12-1; Fleming 9-1-30-2, Lee 4-0-8-0, S R Waugh 7-2-22-2, Warne 9.3-1-34-4, M E Waugh 5-0-30-0; Law 3-0-10-0.

AUSTRALIA

*M A Taylor c B Strang b P A Strang	34
M E Waugh not out	76
R T Ponting c and b P A Strang	33
S R Waugh not out	5
Extras (b 6, lb 2, w 1, nb 1)	10
Total (2 wkts, 36 overs)	158

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-150.

S G Law, M G Bevan, †I A Healy, S Lee, S K Warne, D W Fleming and G D McGrath did not bat.

BOWLING: Streak 10-3-29-0; Lock 4-0-25-0; B Strang 3-0-20-0, Whittall 2-0-11-0; P A Strang 10-2-33-2; Peall 4-0-20-0, G W Flower 3-0-12-0.

Umpires: S G Dunne (New Zealand) and D R Shepherd (England).

TABLE

	P	W	T	L	Pts	NRR
Sri Lanka	3	3	0	0	6	1.63
Australia	4	3	0	1	6	1.27
India	3	2	0	1	4	0.56
West Indies	4	1	0	3	2	-0.27
Kenya	4	1	0	3	2	-0.50
Zimbabwe	4	1	0	3	2	-0.36

FIXTURES: Today: India v Sri Lanka, Delhi (03.30). Mar 4: West Indies v Australia, Jaipur (03.30). Mar 6: India v Zimbabwe, Kanpur (03.30). Mar 6: Sri Lanka v Kenya, Kandy (03.30).

GROUP B

LAHORE (UAE won toss): United Arab Emirates beat Holland by 7 wickets

HOLLAND

N Clarke c Mehra b Altaf	0
P E Cantrell c Abbasi b Saeed	47
F Aponso c and b Dukanwala	45
T de Leede c and b Saeed	36
K J van Noortwijk c Zarawani b Dukanwala	26
*S Lubbers c al-Saffar b Zarawani	8
R P Lefebvre c sub b Dukanwala	12
B Zuiderent st Abbasi b Dukanwala	3
†M Schewe b Dukanwala	6
R van Oosterom not out	2
P-J Bakker not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 15, w 11)	30
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-77, 3-148, 4-153, 5-168, 6-200, 7-200, 8-209, 9-210

BOWLING: Altaf 10-3-15-1, Samarasekera 9-1-36-0, al-Saffar 3-0-25-0; Dukanwala 10-0-29-5, Zarawani 8-0-40-1, Raza 5-0-23-0; Saeed 5-0-29-2.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Azhar Saeed run out	32
Saleem Raza c Zuiderent b Lubbers	84
Mazhar Hussain c Clarke b Lefebvre	16
Vijay Mehra not out	29
Mohammad Ishaq not out	51
Extras (lb 7, w 1)	8
Total (3 wkts, 44.2 overs)	220

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-117, 2-135, 3-136

J Samarasekera, S Dukanwala, *S Zarawani, Saeed-al-Saffar, †Imtiaz Abbasi and Shahzad Altaf did not bat.

BOWLING: Lefebvre 8-0-24-1, Bakker 8-0-41-0; de Leede 4-0-33-0; Aponso 7.2-0-47-0, Lubbers 9-0-38-1, Cantrell 8-0-30-0

Umpires: S Randell (Australia) and Mehboob Shah (Pakistan).

TABLE

	P	W	T	L	Pts	NRR
South Africa	4	4	0	0	8	1.76
New Zealand	4	3	0	1	6	0.94
Pakistan	3	3	0	1	4	1.24
England	4	2	0	2	4	0.14
UAE	5	1	0	4	2	-1.83
Holland	4	0	0	4	0	-1.60

FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Pakistan v England, Karachi (04.00). Mar 5: Holland v South Africa, Rawalpindi (04.00). Mar 6: Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore (09.30).

QUARTER-FINALS: Mar 9: Winner group A v 4th group B, Faisalabad (04.00). Mar 9: 3rd group A v runner-up group B, Bangalore (09.00). Mar 11: Winner group B v 4th group A, Karachi (04.00). Mar 11: 3rd group B v runner-up group A, Madras (09.00).

SEMI-FINALS: Mar 13: Faisalabad winner v Bangalore winner, Calcutta (09.00). Mar 14: Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chandigarh (09.00)

FINAL: Mar 17: Lahore.

Surrey trust Lewis will fit bill

SURREY remain confident that their gamble in signing Chris Lewis, once an integral part of England's one-day team but absent from it for 18 months, will pay off, despite comments by Alec Stewart, the Surrey captain, in Karachi, that Lewis is struggling to shake off a hip injury.

"There is not a problem," Paul Sheldon, the club's chief executive, said yesterday. "Chris has started bowling under the supervision of a physiotherapist and Dave Gilbert, the coach, and he is working up to full fitness. His target must be to get fully fit by April 1, when contracts start, and we will be very upset if he is not available for our first match of the season."

Lewis, 28, was released from a long-term contract with Nottinghamshire last year and signed a two-year deal with Surrey, subject to him proving his fitness.

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

Spinning yarns

At last, dissension in Australia's ranks. Shane Warne said, after taking four wickets in Nagpur yesterday, that he was approaching his lethal best. "I thought I bowled really well the other night against India and today was pretty good as well," he said. "I don't think I could have performed too much better." What did Mark Taylor, his captain, think? "Warne didn't bowl well. Andy Waller hit the ball very well and punished bad balls."

Bowlers' support

The *détente* between Australia and Pakistan continues. Ian Chappell, the former Australia captain, yesterday went to the defence of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, Pakistan's demon fast bowlers, who will put England through their paces tomorrow. Chappell argues that Wasim and Waqar still flourish despite new regulations monitoring the state of the ball.

"You can't believe there is any ball-tampering going on, yet guys like Wasim and Waqar are swinging it a long way," Chappell said. "I would like to hear a few apologies from all the people who were saying that perhaps some of their brilliance was more by devious means than by just straight-out ability. I just think they are very fine bowlers."

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BASEL: Swiss Open: Selected results (GB unless stated). Men: Singles: Third round: D Hall bt T Stuer-Laundsen (Den) 7-15, 15-4, 15-5; P Knowles lost to A Wiranata (Indo) 5-15, 5-15. Doubles: Second round: C Hunt and S Archer lost to D Purwotsugiono and S Budiarto (Indo) 14-18, 18-14, 6-15; N Ponting and J Robertson lost to J Eriksen and C Jakobsen (Den) 7-15, 10-15. Mixed doubles: Third round: Archer and J Bradbury bt K Mitteldorf and K Schmidt (Ger) 15-7, 15-0; Ponting and J Wright lost to Eriksen and H Kirkegaard (Den) 7-15, 15-8, 4-15. Quarter-final: Archer and Bradbury bt N Zuev and M Yakusheva (Russ) 15-7, 15-3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 94 Golden State 85; Orlando 114 New Jersey 98; Houston 109 Philadelphia 95, Cleveland 95 Milwaukee 88, San Antonio 120 Toronto 95; Dallas 137 Denver 120; Los Angeles Clippers 122 Sacramento 110.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying match: Israel 95 Belorussia 73.

BILLIARDS

WIGAN: Strachan British Open: Quarter-finals: R Chapman (Eng) bt R Foldvari (Aus) 768-655, M Russell (Eng) bt D Joshi (India) 1,912-924

BOWLS

ATHERLEY TROPHY: Semi-finals: Norfolk 129 Cumbria 104; Surrey 121 Devon 117.

SOUTHAMPTON: Women's All England indoor championships: Fours: First round: Egham (D Hankin) bt Sevenoaks (V Staples) 24-11; British Cellophane (N Edwards) bt Tye Green (J Grainger) 21-14; Croydon (T Barton) bt Copeland (M Rason) 25-14, Rushden Town (E Stubbs) bt Chorley (D Strutt) 17-14, Diss (C Pollington) bt Bannister Park (R Darling) 17-16; Cherwell (S Lacey) bt Colchester (B Brown) 21-17; Cotswold (J Lee) bt Boston (M Kisby) 20-15, Torbay (W Smith) bt Worthing (L Inch) 21-19.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

SPANISH CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Atlético Madrid 1 Valencia 2 (agg: 6-5).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Southampton 1 Bristol City 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Barnsley 1 Port Vale 3; Huddersfield Town 1 Middlesbrough 2.

ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Bracknell 0 Croydon 2. Third division: Epsom and Ewell 5 Southall 0.

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Crawley Town 2 Southend 2. President's Cup: Third round: Barnet 0 Wycombe 4.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton 2 BAT 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round replay: Watford 4 Tranmere 1.

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR CUP: Fourth round: Wolverhampton Wanderers 2 Birmingham City 3.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers Trophy: Fourth round: Langford 0 Hatfield Town 4.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Fuji Film Trophy: Quarter-final: West Bromwich 0 Bury 0 (aet); Walsall 1 Wirral 0. London Cup: Suffolk 2 Norfolk 2.

CYCLING

TOUR OF VALENCIA: Second stage (Javea to Cullera, 170 kilometres): 1, G Citterio (It, Aki) 4hr 53min 45sec; 2, G Gorini (It, Aki); 3, M Wust (Ger, Mx Onda) all same time. Overall leader: L Jalabert (Fr, ONCE) 13hr 12min 31sec.

LANGKAWI, Malaysia: Tour of Langkawi: First stage (39.5-kilometre team time-trial): 1, Great Britain, 46min 04sec; 2, Australia 46:45; 3, Denmark 47:15.

GOLF

BONMONT: Catalan Open: First round (GB and Ire unless stated): 65: P Lawrie 66: D Howell, F Roca (Sp), D Hospital (Sp). 67: A Sherborne, J Coceres (Arg). 68: J C Piñero (Sp). 69: M Wills, J Rivero (Sp), S Watson. 70: S Field, G Emerson, I Garrido (Sp), P Baker, D Williams, M Hallberg (Swe), G Owen, R Dinsdale, D Gilford, S Hurley

No play yesterday because of high winds

MIAMI: Doral Ryder Open: Early leaders after two rounds (US unless stated). 134: N Ozaki (Japan) 69, 65. 138: L Clements 71, 67. J Leonard 69, 69. 139: G Day 68, 71. 140: B Lohr 70, 70; J Cook 72, 68, P Burke 67, 73. J Inman 71, 69. 145: B Langer (Ger) 72, 73. First round leaders: 63: L Janzen. 64: M Bradley. Other scores: 72: N Faldo (GB), A Lyle (GB).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 5 New York Islanders 1, Florida 2 Washington 2, Chicago 4 Colorado 3, Calgary 7 Pittsburgh 3, St Louis 2 Vancouver 2.

RUGBY UNION

SUPER 12 COMPETITION: Auckland 36 Wellington 28 (at Palmerston North). New South Wales 32 Transvaal 11 (at Sydney).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Ireland A 25 Wales A 11; Ireland Under-21 20 Wales Under-21 12. Scotland Universities 10 England Universities 34; Ireland Universities 21 Wales Universities 22. Scottish Students 9 English Students 44

SKIING

NARVIK, Norway: Women's World Cup downhill: 1, W Zelenskaja (Russ) 1min 39.23sec; 2, P Street (US) 1:39.44; 3, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 1:39.84. World Cup positions: Downhill (after eight races): 1, Street 640pts; 2, Seizinger 425; 3, Zelenskaya 395. Overall: 1, Seizinger 1,182 pts; 2, A Wachter (Austria) 891; 3, M Ertl (Ger), 889.

SNOOKER

MALTA: European Open: Quarter-finals: A Hicks (Eng) bt A Chappel (Wales) 5-1; J Swail (N Ire) bt A Davies (Wales) 5-3.

TENNIS

PHILADELPHIA: Men's tournament (US unless stated): Second round: T Woodbridge (Aus) bt V Spadea 7-6, 6-7, 6-4; B Black (Zim) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-4, 6-3; J Courier bt C Costa (Sp) 7-6, 6-4.

MILAN: Men's tournament: Second round: R Furlan (It) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-1, 6-2; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

LINZ, Austria: Women's tournament: Third round (selected scores): H Sukova (Cz) bt S Rottier (Holl) 6-2, 6-3; J Novotna (Cz) bt K Studenikova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-2; J Wiesner (Austria) bt K Kschwendt (Ger) 7-5, 6-2.

CROYDON: LTA men's satellite masters (GB unless stated): Semi-finals: D Sapsford bt L Milligan 7-5, 6-4; S Groen (Holl) bt A Richardson 6-0, 6-1. Final: Groen bt Sapsford 1-6, 6-3, 6-4

هكذا من الأصل

Why Gullit can lead England a merry dance

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

IT MIGHT be stretching things too far to try to picture Ruud Gullit in tights and a tutu, but there is more in common to dance and sport than meets the eye. One was struck this week by Gullit and Dame Ninette de Valois, the creator of the Royal Ballet, saying virtually the same things about the disciplines and the movement of art.

Gullit is having quite amazing effects at Stamford Bridge. It is not far from Covent Garden, where Dame Ninette, now 96, helped to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the ballet company. Not far apart, either, are their thoughts that the English movement is perfectly OK, but can always be embroidered and enhanced from abroad.

"Football develops all the time," Gullit said after Chelsea's FA Cup victory over Grimsby Town on Wednesday. "It has become quicker and players have to be better athletes than a few years ago. The game asks more of you."

He seemed to be saying that what he can bring to Chelsea, what can be coached into willing partners, is more emphasis on technique and less on the cavalry charge that has been the forte of British football for the last two decades.

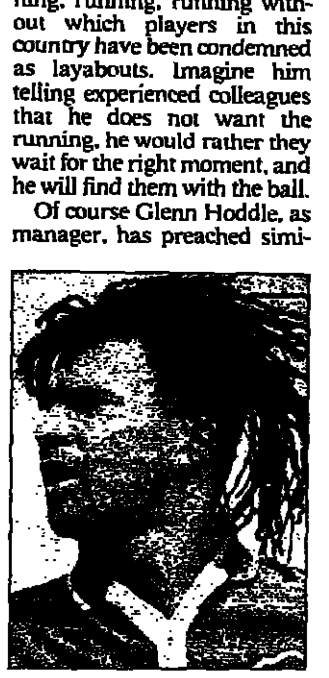
Similarly, Dame Ninette defined great art as "technical study of a very deep order." She told interviewers that she had watched Anna Pavlova dancing *The Dying Swan* when she, Dame Ninette, was 11. "I wrote down every movement in her programme ... the background of technique is all important. There's nothing natural about great art, it's great art that makes it look natural." When she formed her company, she hired Nureyev "because he understood presentation, we understood high kicking."

That could almost define what is happening, what Gullit is attempting to influence, in our football. He is as capable of the long ball as anyone, but since his move from *libero* to midfield orchestrator, he has become closer to the goalscorers. "In Italy you have a more patient build-up, more passing of the ball," he said.

"A striker there just prepares himself for the last moment, the attempt on goal. In England, strikers seem to run from left to right, right to left, and sometimes they have nothing left when the chance comes in front of goal."

Such heresy! Gullit crosses the very edict of workrate, the mindless application to running, running, running without which players in this country have been condemned as layabouts. Imagine him telling experienced colleagues that he does not want the running, he would rather they wait for the right moment, and he will find them with the ball.

Of course Glenn Hoddle, as manager, has preached similar ideas. But Hoddle, in his prime, had been considered a maverick, someone who played a "foreign" game.



Gullit: motivator

Someone similarly misconstrued was Frank Worthington, the most artistic footballer of his generation, but because of a proclivity for high living and dressing in the manner of Elvis Presley, also the most misunderstood. I recall persuading Worthington and Jennifer Penney, then a principal ballerina at the Royal Ballet, to discuss the disciplines of dance and sport. Worthington, we concluded, was an improviser whose skill, honed from emulating the techniques of great players from when he was 11, was considered indulgent. Penney, formerly an exuberant child, a tomboy in her own words, felt that she could not be spontaneous, that her lifestyle and her performance were constrained. Penney had wanted to ski, wanted to break free from the restrictive diet and lifestyle; Worthington did it anyway. Remembering those interviews, I could read again the comment of Dame Ninette: "You never get free from technique if you understand it. All you want is to learn more."

And all Gullit, at 33 living something of an Indian summer wants, is to soothe Chelsea's teamwork, to pass on technique, to stop the headless chicken approach that has been England's downfall. It is fascinating at a time when the players' union and others are attempting to stem the inflow of foreigners, to see how readily, at times joyously, Chelsea players are putting in the hours and thought to get on Gullit's wavelength.

But is he teaching them anything that we have not forgotten? Sir Stanley Matthews always said that the secret of the game was not pace but change of pace; he used to practise 20 sprints a day, not 50 yards but 15. Bill Shankly, when manager at Huddersfield Town, allowed the runner Derek Ibbotson to train with the players. "Ibbo was finished in half an hour at our five-a-sides. You've got to be fit for football, not for running miles."

If one dare conclude with a thought as far-fetched as this article began, it might be Gullit for England. He has the knowledge, the charisma, the ability to motivate players that would not be amiss in the England team once Terry Venables vacates. It will not happen, that would be a stretch too foreign by far..

Draper's reserve conceals fierce desire

David Maddock meets a mainspring of the Aston Villa revival who holds international ambitions

Consolidation. It is a word that Mark Draper heard frequently when he arrived at Aston Villa last summer. His new club was in the process of regeneration, memories of a narrow escape from the embrace of relegation all too vivid. He was a comparative innocent, not versed fully in the ways of the big city.

Six months on, and Villa are Coca-Cola Cup finalists, two matches away from Wembley in the FA Cup, and tomorrow will visit Liverpool for a FA Carling Premiership contest that sees third take on fourth. Draper, for his part, has been such an inspiration that he is now being talked of as an England prospect. Consolidation has been left to the unambitious, he has consolidated for long enough.

"That word was used by a lot of people when they talked about us at the start of the season, but we were quietly confident that we could do something — although I suppose we felt that it might take a bit longer than a few months," Draper said. "There were few household names in our side and people ignored us. Now, we are starting to get a bit of credit, some recognition."

It is a problem, this one of recognition, that has tended to follow Draper about. He possesses an abundant talent: quick brain, darting feet, articulate passing — a formula that Paul Gascoigne, for one, has exploited to almost scandalous levels of self-publicity. Not Draper. It has taken him until his 25th birthday to announce his arrival, an event that should have occured earlier, and many people — Brian Little, his Villa manager among them — believe that he would already have become an international regular if he were not so laid back, retiring almost.

It is feature of our conversation.

Draper's talented feet will grace Wembley later this month

There is an obvious spark in a boyish face that reveals a sense of mischief, yet his approach is careful, almost suspicious, and largely unrevealing. When pressed on this reserve, however, there is a flash of anger. "People keep saying I'm laid back, and off the pitch that's true," he said. "I'm not the type to get carried away, I still live in my home town of Nottingham and see my mates, see what sort of job I could be doing, so I'm pretty down to earth really.

"On the pitch, it's just not true. I've done my apprenticeship. I've been to the Hartlepools and Grimsbys on cold winter nights, and I have got real ambition. I want to improve, I want to go places, and, yes, my aim is to keep playing well enough to be considered for England."

His early idol was John Robertson, that shambling, lop-sided winger who belied an overweight appearance with an exquisite touch. Draper, with his thinning pate and diminutive frame, is another ugly duckling who grew up into a swan.

Only now are people beginning to realise it. Several clubs made noises about him when his contract allowed a move from Leicester City during the summer — Liverpool included — but only Little was sufficiently convinced to meet the asking price of £3 million. Now, only Terry Venables, the England coach, remains to be converted.

Draper also names Gascoigne as an early hero, an irony, given the growing conviction among his admirers that he can better fulfil the latter's role in the national side. "I think I'm ready now to play for England," Draper said. "Over the past year or so, I have matched myself against all the top players and I don't think I would be out of place."

Had Liverpool not been forced to pay such an inflated sum for Stan Collymore, Draper could be wearing a jersey of a different colour at Anfield tomorrow. "I had heard a few things ... but, put it this way, I'm not going there thinking that I will show them what they're missing. I'm going thinking that I've never won there, and that we owe them for beating us earlier in the season," he said.

He is down to earth in the dead-pan style of his manager, and yet a conviction is there, too, born of an unshaking belief that he would reach the top, even when, as a diminutive teenager, he found the physical side of the game presenting difficulties. Consolidation, you suspect, is no longer on the agenda. Consummation of a genuine ability — in the form of a cap — is his aim now.

Radcliffe Borough savour their day in the sun

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

RADCLIFFE Borough jostle for attention among the pack of hopefuls around Greater Manchester. Today, like Flixton last week in the FA Carlsberg Vase, the club has its day in the sun when a place in the quarter-finals of the FA Umbro Trophy is at stake when they play at home to Gateshead.

There are no great expectations of success against seasoned Vauxhall Conference opposition, but merely to be in the last 16 has been a remarkable achievement for the UniBond League first division club that has not previously got past the second qualifying round.

Since joining the league in 1987, Radcliffe have enjoyed only one top-ten finish — seventh last season — in a life among the shadows. Yet the riches of their trophy run this season are probably no surprise with a chairman like Bernard Manning Jr and a manager like Kevin Glendon.

Manning, son of the comedian, and a nightclub owner, is not, Graham Fielding, the secretary, said, "the usual football club chairman". Manning offered an all-expenses paid weekend in Whitley Bay to the team if they were in third place by the time they go there next Saturday. It is one that has slipped away. "We were going very well," Glendon said. "Then the freeze came and we've been so tied up in cup matches that we're four or five games behind everybody. Still, he did us proud when we made our trip to Bognor in the last round."

Glendon, the manager for the past five years, travels from Carlisle to Coventry in his work as a regional director of the Football in the Community scheme. His hand at Rossendale has been strengthened by money made available from sharing Stainton Park with Swinton rugby league club's Alliance team. His biggest coup was signing Joe Connor, a Trophy finalist with Witton Albion and Runcorn, at the start of the season. Connor is partnered by Ian Lunt, the top scorer, and Peter McCrae, signed from Bamber Bridge.

They are reinforced by Frankie Bunn, the former Luton Town and Oldham Athletic striker, Andy Graham, a Trophy winner with Wealdstone in 1985, and Andy Kilner, the former Stockport County player.

"We've never played a Conference club, but we've got plenty of players with experience," Glendon said.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

COVENTRY v WEST HAM

What a dilemma for Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager. He has to chose between Dani or Cottee to partner Dowie up front at Highfield Road. If Dani gets the nod, it will be one of the most cosmetically contrasting partnerships in the history of world football. Ron Atkinson's main problem is usually recognising his players, such is his wont for buying anything that moves. Although he has kept his chequebook under lock and key this week, Coventry are still flirting with Endsleigh Insurance League ignominy.

LAST SEASON: Coventry City 2 West Ham United 0.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 1-3, 0-0, 1-1, —, —, 1-0, —, 1-1, 2-0.

How they line up

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, A Pickering, L Daish, R Shaw, D Burrows, P Telfer, K Richardson, E Jess, J Salako, D Dublin, N Whelan, P Williams, B Borrows, P Ndlovu, N Lamptey, D Busst, J Filan.
WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, S Potts, J Dicks, M Rieper, K Rowland, A Martin, S Bilic, J Harkes, I Bishop, M Hughes, D Williamson, Dani, I Dowie, A Cottee, A Whitbread, L Sealey, J Moncur.

LEEDS v BOLTON WANDERERS

Bolton might have been walloped 6-0 by Manchester United last weekend, but they contributed much to splendid spectacle. Curcic, their midfield player, was particularly impressive, though his finishing is almost as wayward as that of Milosevic, his Serbian compatriot from Villa Park. Brolin, Howard Wilkinson's Swede turned turnip, starts his first game since January 31, but only because of mass unavailability among his Elland Road team-mates. At least he has only ten weeks to go before he can invoke his get-out clause.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: No fixtures.

How they line up

LEEDS: J Lukic, L Radebe, D Wetherall, P Beesley, N Worthington, R Wallace, C Palmer, G McAllister, B Deane, A Yeboah, T Brolin. *Substitutes* (from): M Ford, P Masinga, M Beeney, R Bowman, A Gray.
BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, S Curcic, A Stubbs, D Lee, R Sneekes, M Paatelainen, J McGinlay, S Sellars, A Davison, F de Freitas, S Coleman, Whittaker, N Blake, C Fairclough, S McAnespie.

MANCHESTER CITY v BLACKBURN

With the signing of Georgi Kinkladze proving one of the most astute pieces of business this season, Alan Ball again has Georgia on his mind. He is giving a trial to Mikhail Kavelashvili, who plays for Spartak Vladikavkaz, the Russian champions. If he joins, though, it could provide a headache to the headline writers. "Kinky" is fair enough for Kinkladze but how do you shorten Kavelashvili? Blackburn's good, bad and indifferent season is likely to continue at Maine Road. A fourth successive defeat is nigh.

LAST SEASON: Manchester City 1 Blackburn Rovers 3.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 1-2, 1-0, —, —, —, 3-2, 0-2, 1-3.

How they line up

MANCHESTER CITY (from): E Immel, S Lomas, G Kinkladze, K Symons, N Summerbee, U Rösler, M Brown, K Curle, N Clough, M Phillips, M Margetson, G Creaney, S Hiley.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, H Berg, C Hendry, C Coleman, J Kenna, K Gallacher, T Sherwood, W McKinlay, A Shearer, N Gudmundsson, P Warhurst, G Fenton, M Holmes, M Newell, L Bohinen.

MIDDLESBROUGH v EVERTON

Still no Juninho, but Branco makes up the Brazilian representation for Middlesbrough this weekend. Bryan Robson could return, too, with five of his players missing because of suspension. Looks like an away banker, with Everton having lost only once in nine Premiership outings and Middlesbrough having taken only one point from a possible 27. Everton continue to batter their way up the league and towards a place in Europe, but, stylewise, they still need a lesson or two in how to win friends.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, 3-3, —, —, —, 1-2, —, —.

How they line up

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox, S Vickers, D Whyte, C Fleming, Branco, R Mustoe, B Robson, G Kavanagh, N Barmby, J A Fjortoft, C Hignett, P Wilkinson, J Hendrie.
EVERTON (from): N Southall, J O'Connor, A Hinchcliffe, D Watson, R Unsworth, A Kanchelskis, J Parkinson, J Ebbrell, A Grant, G Stuart, D Ferguson, D Amokachi, C Short, A Limpar, J Kearton.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS v ARSENAL

After seven successive Premiership defeats, Rangers stopped the rot with a 3-1 victory at Sheffield Wednesday a fortnight ago. Such giddy momentum has probably been wiped out by the enforced two-week lay-off and normal Loftus Road service could be resumed this afternoon. Arsenal are missing Wright because of a two-match suspension so Hartson is likely to retain his place up front, despite venting his spleen recently that he had been "treated like a dog" by Bruce Rioch. What a pathetic, pampered pooch.

LAST SEASON: Queens Park Rangers 3 Arsenal 1.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 1-4, 2-0, 0-0, 2-0, 1-3, 0-0, 0-0, 1-1, 3-1.

How they line up

QPR (from): J Sommer, D Bardsley, S Yates, K Ready, T Challis, S Barker, I Holloway, N Quashie, A Impey, T Sinclair, K Gallen, G Goodridge, B Allen, D Dichio, M Brazier, R Wilkins, C Plummer.
ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, M Keown, A Linighan, N Winterburn, P Merson, D Hillier, S Morrow, R Parlour, D Bergkamp, J Hartson, D Platt, S Hughes, M Rose.

SHEFFIELD WED v NOTTM FOREST

Frank Clark, the Forest manager, has decided against giving a run-out to Pearce, his captain. "Psycho", as his Broadmoor followers call him, has missed seven matches after tearing a calf muscle, but Clark is still hopeful he will have recovered in time to play against Bayern Munich on Tuesday. No such attractive fixtures for Wednesday, who could face the likes of Grimsby or Reading next season unless they pull their fingers out. David Pleat conducts himself admirably, but it is all starting to sound a bit lame.

LAST SEASON: Sheffield Wednesday 1 Nottingham Forest 7.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 2-3, 0-1, 0-3, 0-3, —, 2-1, 2-0, —, 1-7.

How they line up

SHEFF WED (from): C Woods, P Atherton, I Nolan, J Watts, D Walker, S Nicol, L Briscoe, G Hyde, M Degryse, G Whittingham, D Kovacevic, M Platts, C Waddle, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge, K Pressman.
NOTTM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, A I Haaland, S Chettle, D Phillips, S Stone, S Gemmill, C Bart-Williams, I Woan, K Campbell, B Roy, A Silenzi, P McGregor, K Black, C Allen, S Howe.

TOTTENHAM v SOUTHAMPTON

Rift, what rift? Le Tissier missed Southampton's midweek FA Cup victory over Swindon Town and, immediately, it was widely reported that he had fallen out with Dave Merrington, his manager. Not true, all parties exclaimed yesterday, poor Matthew was suffering from no more than a heavy cold. We shall see. Tottenham do without Armstrong today, because of his ankle injury, and may also lose Sheringham and Mabbutt to respective knee and calf strains. Could prove insurmountable, even against sinking Saints.

LAST SEASON: Tottenham Hotspur 1 Southampton 2.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: 5-3, 2-0, 2-1, 1-2, 2-1, 2-0, 1-2, 4-2, 3-0, 1-2.

How they line up

TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, R Fox, J Dozzell, D Howells, R Rosenthal, E Sheringham, A Sinton, S Slade, S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, J Edinburgh, G McMahon.
SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, T Widdrington, S Charlton, R Hall, K Monkou, B Venison, J Magilton, M Le Tissier, N Shipperley, G Watson, M Walters, M Oakley, M Robinson, B Grobbelaar.

WIMBLEDON v CHELSEA

Dress rehearsal for the FA Cup quarter-final at Stamford Bridge the next week, with Wimbledon unlikely to miss the opportunity of ruffling a few feathers before the main event. However, with Jones now a pale imitation of his former bulldog self, it may be left to some of his colleagues to impose their will on Gullit and Co. Mind you, the dreadlocked Dutchman is playing so well at present he could probably sidestep a bullet. Holdsworth, back from suspension, will probably get no further than the subs' bench.

LAST SEASON: Wimbledon 1 Chelsea 1.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: —, 2-1, 2-2, —, 0-1, 2-1, 1-2, 0-0, 1-1, 1-1.

How they line up

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, C Perry, A Reeves, A Pearce, A Thorn, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, M Gayle, V Jones, J Goodman, D Holdsworth, A Clarke, J Euell, S Talboys.
CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, T Phelan, D Petrescu, S Clarke, D Lee, M Duberry, T Phelan, E Johnsen, R Gullit, D Wise, J Spencer, M Hughes, G Peacock, P Furlong, N Spackman, D Kharine, M Izzet.

TOMORROW

LIVERPOOL v ASTON VILLA

Third place plays fourth in the Premiership, overshadowed only by Monday's showdown at St James' Park. Liverpool, unbeaten in 15 matches, should have the edge on home territory as long as they can rid themselves of a tendency to stand back and admire their footwork. Collymore, a childhood Villa supporter, will find it difficult to breach the Premiership's most efficient defence — only 21 goals conceded in 27 matches — and, subsequently, may have to rip the Villa poster from his bedroom wall and cry himself to sleep.

LAST SEASON: Liverpool 3 Aston Villa 2.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: 5-0, 3-3, —, 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 1-1, 1-2, 2-1, 3-2.

How they line up

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, J McAteer, J Scales, P Babb, M Wright, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, R Fowler, S Collymore, I Rush, J Redknapp, N Ruddock, S Harkness, A Warner.
ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, G Charles, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton, A Wright, M Draper, A Townsend, J Joachim, S Milosevic, D Yorke, T Johnson, I Taylor, P McGrath, R Scimeca, G Farrelly.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	27	61	+27	WWWLD
2 Manchester Utd	28	57	+26	WWWWW
3 Liverpool	27	52	+29	WWDWW
4 Aston Villa	27	49	+18	LWWDW
5 Tottenham	27	45	+9	WLDLW
6 Arsenal	27	44	+10	WLDWW
7 Everton	28	43	+12	WDWLW
8 Chelsea	28	42	+4	WWLLW
9 Blackburn	28	41	+9	WWLLL
10 Nottm Forest	27	40	-3	LWLLL
11 West Ham	28	38	-6	WWWWL
12 Leeds	25	35	-6	DWLLL
13 Middlesbrough	28	34	-9	LLLLD
14 Sheffield Wed	27	29	-7	LLWLL
15 Southampton	26	25	-10	LWDDL
16 Wimbledon	27	25	-16	LWLLD
17 Coventry	27	25	-16	DLDWD
18 Manchester City	27	25	-20	DDWLD
19 QPR	27	21	-19	LLLLW
20 Bolton	28	18	-30	LLLWL

MONDAY

NEWCASTLE v MANCHESTER UTD

The biggie. If Newcastle win, they can just about dust down the trophy cabinet; if Manchester United win, the recent outbreak of heebie-jeebies on Tyneside will reach epidemic proportions. Kevin Keegan has not emerged with too much credit of late, his self-righteous defence of Asprilla, the nutty Colombian, leaving a lot to be desired. Keegan squealed on about trial by television, after Asprilla's connections with Keith Curle's head, and said: "I'll be sticking by him." What tosh. Enough to make you chant: "Come on you Reds."

LAST SEASON: Newcastle United 1 Manchester United 1.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: 2-4, 2-1, 1-0, 0-0, —, —, —, —, 1-1, 1-1.

How they line up

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, S Howey, P Albert, D Peacock, L Clark, K Gillespie, F Asprilla, D Ginola, P Beardsley, P Kitson, L Ferdinand, R Elliott, S Hislop.
MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, D Irwin, P Parker, G Pallister, P Neville, G Neville, R Giggs, R Keane, N Butt, D Beckham, L Sharpe, E Cantona, A Cole, P Scholes, B McClair, A Coton.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.20pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday: Liverpool v Aston Villa (live)

Monday

7.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football: Newcastle v Manchester United (live)

Words: Russell Kempson/Statistics: Julian Desborough

Toogood To Be True looks good value

By Richard Evans, racing journalist of the year

WHEN Jim McGrath, the Channel 4 and *Timeform* expert, succumbed four years ago to the inspired sales patter of Peter Easterby and bought a strapping young horse with a modest pedigree, he told the canny Yorkshire trainer: "If this is half as good as you say, it is too good to be true."

The name stuck and Toogood To Be True soon justified the Easterby hype. Within three weeks of the deal being agreed, he won his first race and at Doncaster today the eight-year-old seeks the twelfth and most significant victory of his career in the £30,000-added Pertemps Great Yorkshire Chase.

After Toogood To Be True had developed into a useful handicap hurdler, McGrath and his joint-owner, Reg Griffin, held out hopes that he might progress into a Sun Alliance Chase candidate last season. However, having won two novice chases, at Doncaster and Market Rasen, he failed to improve as anticipated and appeared to have a back problem.

After his final start last term, Peter Niven told the owners there was something wrong with the horse and, on the advice of John Francome, they sent him to Mary Bromiley. The renowned equine physiotherapist diagnosed trapped nerves in the horse's neck, incurred when he was cannoned into by another runner while winning at Market Rasen.

"He had been carrying the injury for five races and so took quite a long time to get right. Mary had to make him stretch again on the near side, which he wouldn't do. She used side reins and put weights into some of his boots so he worked much more one side rather than the other," McGrath explained yesterday.

The end result was Toogood To Be True returning to the Easterby yard a sound horse, which explains his much-improved form over fences this season. After two victories, he put up his best performance at Haydock eight weeks ago when failing by a neck to hold the progressive Smith's Band. The handicapper has raised him a generous-looking 3lb for that excellent effort.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MIZYAN
(3.50 Warwick)

NB: Toogood To Be True
(4.05 Doncaster)

Today's feature race was originally scheduled for January 27, but the cold snap forced a postponement which has proved a blessing for Toogood To Be True. Not only would he have been forced to miss the race, because of a bruised foot incurred earlier that week, but the race today is a quarter-mile longer than the originally planned encounter, which will bring his stamina into play.

Although any rain would undoubtedly enhance his chances, the likely strong gallop should make this a thorough test. **Toogood To Be True** also appeared to benefit from being ridden more patiently last time and looks decent value at around 11-2.

When Squire Silk obliged for this column by landing the Tote Gold Trophy last month, Celibate ran a cracker from 12lb out of the handicap to finish a good fourth at 66-1.

Despite carrying top weight in the Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle this afternoon, the five-year-old still looks fairly treated. Charlie Mann reported his hurdler to be in "cracking form" yesterday and **Celibate** can take this at the main expense of Tejano Gold and Spring Saint before lining up for the County Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, **Full Of Oats** looks handicapped to complete a trio of staying chase successes at Warwick in the Crudwell Cup Handicap Chase (2.50). However, the best bet on the card is reserved for **Mizyan** in the Blackdown Handicap Hurdle.

Jack Banks's hurdler is best over 2½ miles on good ground and a victory at Fakenham last term confirmed his liking for a sharp circuit. After a ten-week break over hurdles, Mizyan ran particularly well *behind Cheryl's Lad* over an inadequate two miles at Doncaster last Saturday. The return to a longer distance and more patient riding tactics should pay off.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Danger Baby clears the last safely on his way to victory at Newbury yesterday

Zamhareer can spring surprise

NEWBURY
BBC1

1.00: The well-handicapped Northants makes the long journey from Consett and Richard Dunwoody is an eye-catching booking, but he must have soft ground and, preferably, a stiff uphill finish. He could be vulnerable to a rival with better finishing speed, and **Staunch Rival** could be the value choice. Off the course for 80 days, he goes particularly well fresh and for Mick Fitzgerald.

1.30: Medinas Swan Song will go close if he stays this trip, but that is doubtful, and Well Briefed, twice a winner over course and distance, would be a safer choice normally. However, **Ciel De Brion**, trained in France by François Doumen, could be thrown in on his British chasing debut. A winner over fences at Auteuil (where he beat Arkle Trophy third Camitrov), he won a small novice hurdle at Fontwell 12 days ago and should be spot on here. Ask The Governor is an interesting outsider.

2.00: See above.

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

3.00: Cab On Target, winner of this race last year, has his favoured ground and as the only horse in the handicap proper could easily oblige despite a long lay-off. However, Mary Reveley's stayer is getting no younger and one horse definitely on the upgrade is **Zamhareer**, who showed improved form when stepped up to three miles for the first time at Newcastle seven weeks ago. Despite being more than a stone out of the handicap, he is up to springing a surprise.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

3.35: Valiant Warrior, from the in-form Micky Hammond yard, bounced back to top form at Newcastle two weeks ago but the eight-year-old's best runs have always been on easier going. Go Universal, unbeaten in six completed starts over fences, loves left-handed tracks and the prevailing ground but may just need this race in preparation for Cheltenham after a 12-week lay-off. By contrast, **Konvekta King** looks sure to come on for his latest run at Sandown, where he travelled well until lack of fitness told three out. The eight-year-old, a course winner last term, has the form to win this.

4.05: See above.

4.40: Star Rage ran encouragingly to finish third to Cheryl's Lad here last Saturday after a 2½-month absence. He has an obvious chance, although I have always felt the useful dual-purpose horse is better on courses with an uphill finish. Once More For Luck would go close if reproducing the form which saw him win at Sedgefield recently, but **High Mind** is an outsider who can bounce back to form on his favoured ground.

Richard Evans

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DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.55 Blaze Away
2.25 Callisoe Bay
3.00 Cab On Target
3.35 **VALIANT WARRIOR** (nap)
4.05 Emerald Storm
4.40 Star Rage
5.10 Shariakanndi

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.05 COGENT.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE) GOOD (HURDLES) SIS

1.55 PARDUBICE NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,810: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1	310	BLAZE AWAY 8 (D,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-11-10	G Bradley	[illegible]
2	261-200	FURIETTO 49 (F) (Shirebrook Park Management Ltd) M Hammond 6-11-10	P Niven	91
3	00	GREAT GABLE 46 (Cartmel Racing) D Moffatt 5-11-4	D J Moffatt	—
4	066-300	PEBBLE BEACH 14 (The Pebble Beach Partnership) G Moore 6-11-4	J Callaghan	61
5	001-6PB	WILMAN 42 (F) (J Wilman) M Hammond 6-11-4	B Storey	—
6		CAMILLA (Mrs J Conway) Mrs J Conway 5-10-13	D Bentley	—
7	632054-	STRATH KITTEN 280F (Ms C Sharp) T Clement 5-10-13	L O'Hara	57
8	0	HOTSPUR STREET 14 (S Clarke) M W Easterby 4-10-9	R Garritty	80

BETTING: 5-4 Blaze Away, 3-1 Furietto, 6-1 Hotspur Street, 8-1 Wilman, 10-1 Pebble Beach, Strath Kitten, 14-1 others

1995: GO BALLISTIC 6-11-10 M A Fitzgerald (2-1 fav) J O'Shea 18 ran

2.25 VELKA PARDUBICKA NOVICES CHASE

(£3,823: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1	50-F132	CALLISOE BAY 53 (D,BF,G,S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 7-11-8	G Bradley	[illegible]
2	P-801FU	NETHERBY SAID 7 (F) (Mrs S Sunter) B Wilkinson 6-11-8	M Foster	66
3	2P33-43	CHEEKA 7 (D Thompson) C Smith 7-11-2	M Ranger	66
4	216-F22	KNOW-NO-NO 14 (G) (Mrs A Kane) M Hammond 7-11-2	R Garritty	70
5	36P-454	PORTAMENTO 155 (J Turner) J Turner 5-10-3	W Fry	—

BETTING: 4-9 Callisoe Bay, 5-1 Netherby Said, Know-No-No, 10-1 Cheeka, 25-1 Portamento

1995: EASTHORPE 7-12-0 M A Fitzgerald (5-2 jt-fav) Miss H Knight 8 ran

3.00 YELLER PUBLICATIONS HANDICAP HURDLE C4

(£5,114: 3m 110yd) (5 runners)

1	121-14P	CAB ON TARGET 98 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Fulton) Mrs M Reveley 10-12-0	P Niven	98
2	414-PPP	LOCH SCAVAIG 80 (F,G,S) (Mrs G Turnbull) D Moffatt 7-10-0	D J Moffatt	[illegible]
3	0-32550	IVY HOUSE 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs L Joughin) J J O'Neill 8-10-0	M Dwyer	94
4	336-2F2	ZAMHAREER 49 (G) (D Batey) W Storey 5-10-0	P Carberry	96
5	40-4114	SMITH TOO 43 (D,F,G) (Smith Mansfield Meat Co Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-0	L Wyer	86

Long handicap: Loch Scavaig 9-12, Ivy House 9-1, Zamhareer 8-12, Smith Too 8-11

BETTING: 1-3 Cab On Target, 6-1 Smith Too, 8-1 Zamhareer, 10-1 Ivy House, 12-1 Loch Scavaig.

1995: CAB ON TARGET 9-12-0 P Niven (7-2 fav) Mrs M Reveley 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

CAB ON TARGET 9l 4th of 6 to Greenhill Tare Away in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good) on penultimate start. LOCH SCAVAIG, pulled up all three starts this season, best effort last season beat Buckboard Bounce 2l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m 2f 110yd, good). IVY HOUSE 9¼l 5th of 11 to Top Cees in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. ZAMHAREER 5l 2nd of 14 to The Last Fling in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good). SMITH TOO completed double, beat Alternation 3½l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: ZAMHAREER

3.35 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE C4

(£7,100: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	6/211-F3	KONVEKTA KING 15 (C,F,G,S) (Konvekta Ltd) O Sherwood 8-12-0	P Carberry	85
2	U11111	GO UNIVERSAL 85 (CD,F,G,S) (Universal Conf& Incentive) C Brooks 8-12-0	G Bradley	92
3	11FF06	WIND FORCE 46 (F,G) (J Moreton) G Richards 11-12-0	A Dobbin	93
4	21-2251	VALIANT WARRIOR 14 (D,F,G,S) (P Sellars) M Hammond 8-11-10	R Garritty	97
5	5P-2430	SNITTON LANE 14 (F,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 10-11-9	B Storey	90
6	434320	STRONG DEEL 14 (F,G,S) (J Stephenson) W Reed 8-11-3	B Harding (3)	96
7	1P-4F23	NEWLANDS-GENERAL 42 (CD,G,S) (W Hancock) J Fitzgerald 10-10-13	M Dwyer	95
8	155-300	ONE FOR THE POT 14 (F,G,S) (P Dawes) Mrs A Naughton 11-10-9	J Supple (3)	[illegible]
9	411444	RODEO STAR 15 (B,CD,F,G,S) (J Bradbury) N Tinkler 10-10-8	L Wyer	98
10	U44-011	SONSIE MO 52 (F,G,S) (T Hardie) Mrs S Bradburne 11-10-7	P Niven	97

BETTING: 11-4 Valiant Warrior, 7-2 Go Universal, 5-1 Konvekta King, 6-1 Newlands-General, 8-1 Sonsie Mo, 10-1 Strong Deel, Wind Force, 14-1 others

1995: ONE MORE DREAM 8-10-8 R Guest (20-1) Mrs S Smith 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

KONVEKTA KING 16½l 3rd of 5 to Southampton in handicap chase at Sandown (2m, good to soft) with RODEO STAR (5lb better off) 9l 4th. GO UNIVERSAL completed five-timer, beat Bas de Laine 6l in 6-runner limited handicap chase over course and distance (good to firm) with NEWLANDS-GENERAL (15lb better off) 24l 4th. VALIANT WARRIOR beat Golden Fiddle 7l in 13-runner handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to soft) with STRONG DEEL (3lb better off) 14l 7th, SNITTON LANE (2lb better off) 16l 9th and ONE FOR THE POT (7lb better off) 5l 10th.
NEWLANDS-GENERAL 12l 3rd of 7 to Master Boston in handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good). SONSIE MO completed double, beat Judicial Field 2l in 6-runner handicap chase at Kelso (2m 1f, good to soft).
Selection: VALIANT WARRIOR

4.05 PERTEMPS GREAT YORKSHIRE CHASE C4

(Handicap: £21,398: 3m 2f) (12 runners)

1	24-4P24	COGENT 51 (D,F,G,S) (Pall-mall Partners) J Glover 12-12-0	D Fortt (5)	[illegible]
2	1-11112	DEXTRA DOVE 21 (BF,F,G,S) (Dextra Lighting Systems) S Earle 9-11-8	B Powell	87
3	1P10/50	CARBISDALE 51 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M Williams) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-13	P Niven	—
4	44P-52P	SIR PETER LELY 92 (V,F,G,S) (J Doyle Construction) M Hammond 9-10-13	R Garritty	84
5	2-13152	TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE 56 (C,D,F,G,S) (J McGrath) T Easterby 8-10-10	L Wyer	98
6	545P3P	GOLD CAP 14 (D,G,S) (G Meadows) Miss J Bower 11-10-6	L Harvey	90
7	2-1121U	ADDINGTON BOY 49 (BF,F,G,S) (Gott Foods Ltd) G Richards 8-10-6	A Dobbin	85
8	21/1P-56	MERRY MASTER 117 (B,D,F,G,S) (G Lansbury) A Harrison 12-10-6	P Carberry	93
9	14-1241	EMERALD STORM 52 (D,F,G,S) (T Finch) P Monteith 9-10-4	G Cahill (5)	90
10	200-4P4	NEVADA GOLD 49 (F,G,S) (Maltsword Ltd) F Yardley 10-10-3	P McLoughlin	89
11	24-4404	BOARDING SCHOOL 96 (B,F,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 9-10-0	B Storey	77
12	14-6203	PIMS GUNNER 18 (F,G,S) (A Chappell) M Hammond 8-10-0	B Harding (3)	76

Long handicap: Boarding School 9-7, Pims Gunner 9-5

BETTING: 3-1 Dextra Dove, 7-2 Addington Boy, 5-1 Emerald Storm, Toogood To Be True, 7-1 Cogent, Sir Peter Lely, 12-1 Carbisdale, 20-1 Gold Cap, Pims Gunner, 25-1 Nevada Gold, 33-1 others

1995: MELEAGRIS 11-10-11 A Maguire (15-8 fav) D Nicholson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

COGENT 7l 2nd of 4 to Scotton Banks in handicap chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. DEXTRA DOVE short-head 2nd of 13 to Sunley Bay in handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft).
SIR PETER LELY 6l 2nd of 10 to Young Hustler in handicap chase at Aintree (3m 3f, good to firm) on penultimate start. TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE neck 2nd of 10 to Smith's Band in handicap chase at Haydock (3m, soft). GOLD CAP 10½l 3rd of 12 to Full Of Oats in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start.
ADDINGTON BOY beat Rocket Run 15l in 11-runner novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE

4.40 LIGHT INFANTRY PLATE HANDICAP HURDLE C4

(£3,704: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	21110P	THORNTON GATE 21 (CD,F,G,S) (T Bennett) T Easterby 7-11-10	L Wyer	95
2	F25-302	NOYAN 51 (D,F,G) (C McGhie) D Nicholls 6-11-7	S Mason	95
3	5/0-3050	ALBEMINE 42 (D,F) (G Ward) Mrs J Cecil 7-10-13	T Kent	95
4	6564P0	NORDIC SUN 17F (D,G,S) (J Starcher) L Lloyd-James 8-10-12	E Callaghan (5)	—
5	3-31123	STAR RAGE 7 (D,F,G) (J Abell) J L Harris 6-10-11	D Gallagher	95
6	254-131	ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 17 (D,F,G) (Mary Reveley Club) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-7	P Niven	95
7	2521-00	HIGH MIND 14 (D,F) (J Wilson) Miss L Siddall 7-10-3	R Supple	97
8	414113	WAMDHA 102 (D,F,G,S) (T Pryke) K Morgan 6-10-3	M Dwyer	[illegible]

BETTING: 9-4 Star Rage, 3-1 Once More For Luck, 4-1 Noyan, Thornton Gate, 8-1 Wamdha, 10-1 others

1995: BRAMBLEBERRY 6-10-11 R Guest (11-8 fav) Mrs S Smith 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

THORNTON GATE best effort this season, beat STAR RAGE (10lb better off) 3l in 4-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good). NOYAN 7l 2nd of 15 to Frickley in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). ALBEMINE about 5½l 5th of 17 to Celibate in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) on penultimate start with NOYAN (1lb worse off) 3l 7th. STAR RAGE 4½l 3rd of 14 to Cheryl's Lad in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good).
ONCE MORE FOR LUCK beat Sudden Spin 1l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good). WAMDHA 3l and neck 3rd of 8 to Cheryl's Lad in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: STAR RAGE (nap)

5.10 TOWN MOOR STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,585: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

1	3-1	ALZULU 39 (F) (D Buckle) J Fitzgerald 5-11-10	E Callaghan (5)	—
2	64	CORRIMULZIE 17 (BF) (Roemex Ltd) K Morgan 5-11-3	R Massey (5)	—
3	0	JILLS JOY 132 (R Baker) J Norton 5-11-3	E Callaghan (5)	—
4		KARENASTINO (Miss J Wood) Mrs S Smith 5-11-3	Mr P Murray (7)	—
5		LIFEBUOY (Miss S Turner) J Turner 5-11-3	B Grattan (7)	—
6		LORD MILLS 107 (M Worcester) N Chance 5-11-3	D Finnegan (7)	—
7	0	PRIMITIVE MAN 42 (B Temple) B Temple 6-11-3	F Leahy (3)	—
8	0	ROWDY YATES 57 (B) (S Astaire) B Rothwell 6-11-3	Mr S Astaire	—
9		SHORT CIRCUIT BOY (Mrs N Giddeywright) P Felgate 5-11-3	Mrs M Morris	—
10	0	THE BAY BOMBER 15 (Clearview Partnership) T Clement 6-11-3	D Fortt (5)	—
11		MR LURPAK (MD Foods Plc) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-9	G Cahill (5)	—
12		MY BUSTER (Mrs T Hall) Miss S Hall 4-10-9	D Thomas (7)	—
13	0	NOT GUILTY 15 (P Gormley) H Oliver 4-10-9	Philip Hughes (7)	—
14		SHARIAKANNDI (K Elliott) D Eddy 4-10-9	C Teague (3)	—
15		SOUTHERN CROSS (ROM Racing) M W Easterby 4-10-9	B Harding (3)	—

BETTING: 3-1 Alzulu, 7-2 Shariakanndi, 4-1 Southern Cross, 5-1 Mr Lurpak, 7-1 My Buster, 8-1 others.

1995: MONICASMAN 5-11-3 P Morris (4-1) A Jarvis 18 ran

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Newbury

Going: good with soft patches

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Monicasman (A P McCoy, 13-8 fav); 2, Just 'N Ace (9-2); 3, Sir Leonard (9-4) 18 ran. 5l, 3l. A Jarvis Tote £2.60; £2.90, £1.60, £1.30 DF: £6.00 Trio: £3.20 CSF: £9.91.

2.30 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Yes Man (J F Titley, 11-2), 2, Feels Like Gold (14-1), 3, Bullens Bay (7-1). See Enough 11-4 fav (pu). 12 ran. ¾l, 4l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £4.80, £1.40, £3.70, £1.80 DF £60.30. Trio £39.40. CSF: £71.34 Tricast: £502.21.

3.00 (3m ch) 1, Danger Baby (P Holley, 8-1); 2, Sedge Warbler (10-1); 3, Bramblehill Buck (8-1). Ocean Leader 11-4 fav (pu) 15 ran. NR: Maestro Paul 9l, 2½l D Williams Tote: £8.60; £2.20, £3.00, £2.20 DF £43.60. Trio: £109.50. CSF: £76.73 Tricast. £608.02.

3.30 (2m 1f ch) 1, Mister Oddy (Mr J Culloty, 2-1 fav), 2, Dear Do (3-1); 3, Peaceman (3-1) 7 ran 6l, 8l J King Tote £3.30; £1.80, £2.00. DF: £5.00 CSF: £7.50.

4.00 (3m ch) 1, Colonial Kelly (Mr P Hacking, 11-8 jt-fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Still In Business (11-8 jt-fav); 3, Dubit (5-1). 6 ran NR: No Joker. 2½l, 3½l Mrs D Grissell Tote £2.30; £1.40, £1.30. DF: £1.50. CSF: £3.40

4.30 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Fantastic Fleet (S Curran, 9-2); 2, Tickerty's Gift (7-2); 3, Foxtrot Romeo (5-2 fav). 11 ran 5l, 2½l. Miss J Doyle Tote: £5.30; £1.40, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £12.20. Trio: £6.20. CSF. £20.17. Tricast £44.62.

5.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Hatta Breeze (R Johnson, 3-1); 2, Hand Woven (15-8 fav). 3, Iktasab (7-2). 8 ran. 5l. 12l. D Nicholson. Tote: £4.40, £1.10, £1.10, £1.50. DF: £8.10. CSF: £8.88.

Jackpot: £24,907.70.

Placepot: £19.00. Quadpot: £7.70.

Kelso

Going: good to soft, soft in places

2.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Elpidos (R Garritty, 5-1); 2, Crystal Gift (12-1); 3, Menshaar (66-1) Edelweis Du Moulin 4-9 fav (f). 12 ran. 4l, 14l. M Hammond. Tote. £9.00. £1.80, £1.90, £21.60 DF: £78.90 Trio: £169.60 (part won; pool of £107.51 carried forward to 3.40 at Newbury today) CSF: £59.30

2.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, Canaillou II (Mr K Whelan, 9-2), 2, Cool Weather (10-1); 3, Vulpin De Laugere (5-2 fav). 15 ran. NR: Cherry Stone. 1¾l, 2l. Mrs S Bramall Tote £5.70; £2.70, £4.00, £1.90. DF: £26.00. Trio £33.50 CSF £48.28.

3.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, Off The Bru (Mr M Bradburne, 5-1); 2, Royal Jester (4-9 fav); 3, Carousel Rocket (20-1). 8 ran NR: Free Transfer. Hd, 2l Mrs S Bradburne. Tote: £6.10; £1.50, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £3.00. Trio: £3.90. CSF. £7.64.

3.50 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Penny A Day (P Niven, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Direct Route (8-1); 3, Santa Concerto (5-2 jt-fav). 13 ran. 1½l, 15l. Mrs M Reveley Tote: £3.50; £1.90, £2.70, £1.60. DF: £7.10 Trio: £3.80. CSF: £21.82

4.20 (3m 4f ch) 1, Ceilidh Boy (Mr R Hale, 11-10 fav); 2, Stop The Waller (7-4); 3, Antonin (15-2). 6 ran. 1l, 25l. Mrs J Goodfellow. Tote £2.00; £1.20, £1.60. DF £2.10. CSF. £3.85.

4.50 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Erzadjan (P Niven, 12-1); 2, Stash The Cash (6-4 fav), 3, Any Dream Would Do (4-1). 11 ran. 2½l, 4l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £21.70; £4.20, £1.10, £1.80. DF. £18.90. Trio: £96.00. CSF: £32.51. Tricast: £98.84.

Placepot: £30.70. Quadpot: £1.90.

Newton Abbot

Going: heavy

2.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Mellon Pride (R Dunwoody, 9-2); 2, Glengarnf Girl (11-4 jt-fav), 3, Mr Playfull (5-4). Speedy Snapsgem 11-4 jt-fav. 13 ran NR: Kingswood Manor. ½l, 1½l P Hobbs. Tote: £5.30, £2.70, £1.30, £1.30 DF: £5.90. Trio: £6.40. CSF: £17.34.

2.45 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Sister Stephanie (R Dunwoody, 1-4 fav); 2, Myblackthorn (7-2); 3, April Cruise (50-1). 4 ran. Dist, dist. G McCourt Tote: £1.10. DF: £1.50 CSF. £1.52

3.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Hold Your Ranks (J Frost, 9-2 fav), 2, Blue Lawn (7-1); 3, Whitebonnet (7-1) 13 ran 8l, 8l R Frost Tote. £4.20, £2.00, £3.60, £2.30. DF: £16.60 Trio: £43.00. CSF £37.29. Tricast: £208.70.

3.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Around The Gale (R Dunwoody, 4-6 fav), 2, Intermagic (8-1), 3, Miss Firecracker (33-1) 7 ran. NR: Tolcarne Lady. 15l, 20l D Gandolfo Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £3.80. DF: £4.00 CSF: £8.61.

4.15 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Allo George (A Thornton, 3-1), 2, Beau Babillard (5-4 fav); 3, Emral Miss (5-1) 4 ran NR: Mister Oddy 20l, dist. A Newcombe. Tote: £4.50 DF £3.60. CSF: £6.99

4.45 (2m 1f flat race) 1, Three Farthings (G Upton, Evens fav); 2, Karicleigh Man (6-1), 3, Bank Avenue (10-1). 11 ran. 12l, 14l. J Old. Tote. £1.90, £1.30. £4.20, £2.00 DF: £6.40. Trio: £21.20 CSF: £8.42

Placepot: £27.50. Quadpot: £24.30.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.40 (1m 4f) 1, Inovar (F Lynch, 10-1); 2, Philmist (5-2 fav); 3, Carol Again (4-1). 7 ran. NR: Selmeston, Verro 3l, 2l. C Booth. Tote £13.10; £4.40, £2.00. DF: £63.90. Trio: £48.10 CSF: £36.15. Tricast £112.46.

2.10 (6f) 1, Daawe (F Lynch, 7-2 fav); 2, Awesome Venture (9-2); 3, Desert Invader (4-1). 10 ran. Hd, nk Mrs V Aconley Tote: £5.50; £1.40, £1.50, £2.00. DF: £7.90 Trio: £8.60 CSF: £19.07 Tricast: £60.62. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood

2.40 (1m 6f) 1, Eulogy (T Ashley, 7-2); 2, El Nido (4-1); 3, Baher (8-1). Tartan Gem 10-11 fav. 8 ran 8l, 2½l. K Burke Tote: £6.20; £1.40, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £13.10 CSF: £17.65.

3.10 (1m 4f) 1, Disc Of Gold (T Williams, 6-5 fav), 2, Orgeng (6-4); 3, Havana Heights (8-1) 6 ran. 20l, 6l. M Johnston Tote £2.40; £1.10, £1.80. DF: £1.80 CSF: £3.36

3.40 (1m) 1, High Premium (A Culhane, 9-1); 2, Anastina (4-1); 3, Second Colours (3-1 fav) 8 ran Sh hd, 2l. R Fahey Tote: £11.50; £2.10, £1.10, £1.20 DF: £18.50. CSF: £42.03 Tricast £123.65.

4.10 (1m) 1, David James' Girl (Iona Wands, 11-4 fav); 2, No Submission (5-1): 3, First Gold (6-1). 9 ran Nk, 6l. A Bailey Tote: £3.40; £1.10, £1.70, £4.10 DF: £14.20 Trio: £10.80 CSF: £16.20 No bid.

4.40 (1m 4f) 1, Tempering (A Culhane, 9-1); 2, Northern Trial (7-4 fav); 3, Charlie Bigtime (8-1) 9 ran 3½l, 1¼l. D Chapman Tote: £9.80: £3.20, £1.80, £3.00. DF: £32.40 Trio. £52.70 CSF: £25.97. Tricast £129.72

Placepot: £32.10. Quadpot: £4.90.

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Doncaster (first race, 2.00), Uttoxeter (2.10), Windsor (2.20).

TUESDAY: Leicester (2.20), Newbury (2.10), Sedgefield (2.00).

WEDNESDAY: Bangor (1.55), Catterick Bridge (2.00), Lingfield Park (1.50), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.10)

THURSDAY: Carlisle (2.00), Towcester (2.20), Wincanton (2.10)

FRIDAY: Ayr (1.50), Market Rasen (1.40), Sandown Park (2.00).

SATURDAY: Ayr (1.45), Chepstow (BBC, 1.00), Sandown Park (C4, 1.55), Southwell (AW, 2.10).

Flat meetings in bold

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.00 Northants
1.30 Well Briefed
2.00 How's It Goin
2.30 Keep It Zipped
3.05 Golden Spinner
3.40 Purevalue
4.10 Arctic Fusilier

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.00 BERKSHIRE HANDICAP CHASE BBC1

(£5,020: 3m) (7 runners)

101	1F-5525	NORTHANTS 14 (D,G,S) (C Rennison) W Storey 10-11-10	R Dunwoody	95
102	P1-2122	STAUNCH RIVAL 80 (D,F,G,S) (C Humphry) G Thorner 9-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	92
103	131/R06	THE WIDGET MAN 40 (D,F,G,S) (A Bailey) J Gifford 10-11-7	P Hide	—
104	53-04PU	PLASTIC SPACEAGE 14 (D,G,S) (Spaceage Plastics Ltd) J Old 13-11-5	G Upton	[illegible]
105	05P252	GIVUS A BUCK 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) (K Costello) D Elsworth 13-11-0	P Holley	96
106	2122/U-U	TIPP MARINER 21 (CD,G,S) (Mrs J Bishop) S Sherwood 11-10-10	C Llewellyn	—
107	524-402	SCOLE 42 (G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 11-10-8	K Gaule (3)	91

BETTING: 2-1 Northants, 7-2 Staunch Rival, 5-1 Givus A Buck, Scole, 8-1 Tipp Mariner 12-1 The Widget Man 14-1 Plastic Spaceage

1995: MEETING ABANDONED — SNOW AND FROST

FORM FOCUS

NORTHANTS 7l 2nd of 9 to General Wolfe in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start. STAUNCH RIVAL 5l 2nd of 6 to Bishops Island in handicap chase at Exeter (3m 7f 110yds, good). PLASTIC SPACEAGE best recent effort 30½l 4th of 12 to Full Of Oats in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, good to soft). GIVUS A BUCK head 2nd of 17 to Deependable in handicap chase at Windsor (3m 5f, good). TIPP MARINER best recent effort 2l 2nd of 8 to Armagret in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good). SCOLE 4l 2nd of 7 to Master Bastion in handicap chase at Kempton (3m 4f 110yds, good)
Selection: NORTHANTS

1.30 NORTH SYDMONTON HANDICAP CHASE BBC1

(£4,497: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

201	21211-2	HERMES HARVEST 14 (F,G) (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 8-11-12	R Dunwoody	93
202	012011	CIEL DE BRION 12 (B,S) (H de Pracomtal) F Doumen (Fr) 6-11-9	Mr T Doumen (7)	—
203	31-4453	WELL BRIEFED 21 (CD,F,G,S) (P Jones) R Buckler 9-11-9	B Powell	96
204	P60P-60	RICHVILLE 21 (D,F,G,S) (Major-Gen R Burges) K Bailey 10-11-8	S McNeill	—
205	1263-32	MEDINAS SWAN SONG 15 (G,S) (C Perry) R Hodges 8-11-4	A Tory	[illegible]
206	04-12F0	ASK THE GOVERNOR 14 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D C-Brereton) G Balding 10-10-7	A P McCoy	96
207	332/31P	TUDOR FABLE 58 (BF,G,S) (J Collins) N Henderson 8-10-7	M A Fitzgerald	93
208	2-15R0F	TOO PLUSH 8 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Williams) A Turnell 7-10-5	L Harvey	93
209	3/1/FU0	WYLAM 14 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs J Wootton) J Gifford 9-10-0	P Hide	—

Long handicap: Wylam 9-2

BETTING: 9-4 Ciel De Brion, 7-2 Well Briefed, 4-1 Medinas Swan Song, 11-2 Tudor Fable, 7-1 Ask The Governor 10-1 Too Plush, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

HERMES HARVEST beat Honest Word 1l in 16-runner hunter chase at Stratford (3m 4f, good). CIEL DE BRION beat Pavlova 8l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, soft). WELL BRIEFED 18l 3rd of 12 to Terao in handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft) with RICHVILLE (2lb better off) 58l 8th and TOO PLUSH (5lb better off) further behind 9th. MEDINAS SWAN SONG 1¾l 2nd of 5 to Southampton in handicap chase at Sandown (2m, good to soft). ASK THE GOVERNOR best recent effort head 2nd of 6 to Royal Square in amateur riders handicap chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good). TUDOR FABLE beat Repeat The Dose 4l in 8-runner handicap chase at Towcester (3m 110yd, soft). WYLAM 33l 8th of 17 to Deependable in handicap chase at Windsor (3m 5f, good) with ASK THE GOVERNOR (5lb better off).
Selection: MEDINAS SWAN SONG

2.00 LADBROKE HANDICAP HURDLE BBC1

(£7,408: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

301	121044	CELIBATE 21 (D,F,G,S) (Stamford Bridge Ptnrs) C Mann 5-12-0	M Kelly (7)	[illegible]
302	4P3-062	KINGSFOLD PET 49 (CD,G,S) (Exors of G Nye) M Haynes 7-11-12	D Skyrme	97
303	2P2-P01	BUTLER'S TWITCH 14 (B,D,G,S) (C Heath) O Sherwood 9-11-8	M Richards	97
304	13540R	SQUIRE YORK 7 (D,F,S) (J Powell-Tuck) P Murphy 6-10-13	E Murphy	96
305	2-P516P	PLUNDER BAY 42 (B,D,S) (E & W Robins) N Henderson 5-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	94
306	542205	TEJANO GOLD 14 (D,BF,G,S) (P Bradley) P Bradley 6-10-12	A P McCoy	92
307	442362	TWICE A NIGHT 14 (D,BF,F) (All in the Mind) D Nicholson 7-10-7	J F Titley	94
308	64/2644	MARIUS 12 (S) (Mrs A Andrews) J Gifford 6-10-7	P Hide	94
309	1-61501	SPRING SAINT 19 (S) (Miss C Horler) Miss C Horler 7-10-7	G Upton	96
310	301-104	UP THE JUNCTION 100 (D,BF,F,G) (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 6-10-6	P Holley	89
311	355205	HOW'S IT GOIN 14 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Muir) W Muir 5-10-5	R Dunwoody	94

BETTING: 4-1 Kingsfold Pet, 9-2 Spring Saint, Twice A Night, 6-1 Celibate, 7-1 Butler's Twitch, Tejano Gold 8-1 How's It Goin, 12-1 Marius, 14-1 Plunder Bay, 25-1 Squire York, Up The Junction.

FORM FOCUS

CELIBATE 8¾l 4th of 18 to Squire Silk in grade II Tote Gold Trophy handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to soft). KINGSFOLD PET 1¼l 2nd of 14 to Sohrab in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yds, soft) with CELIBATE (2lb worse off) 2¾l 4th. BUTLER'S TWITCH beat Simply 3l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft). SQUIRE YORK 35l 9th of 15 to Angelo's Double in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good) with PLUNDER BAY (6lb better off) pulled up. PLUNDER BAY best recent effort beat TWICE A NIGHT (1lb worse off) head in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). TWICE A NIGHT neck 2nd of 12 to Goldingo in handicap hurdle at Warwick (3m, good) with TEJANO GOLD (5lb better off) about 5¾ 5th. MARIUS 10¼l 4th of 9 to Melnik in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft). SPRING SAINT beat Goldingo 6l in handicap hurdle at Hereford (3m 1f, heavy)
Selection: TEJANO GOLD

2.30 BARRIE OWENS 50TH BIRTHDAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£3,526: 2m 5f) (20 runners)

401	2-14201	KEEP IT ZIPPED 14 (F,S) (Mrs L Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 6-11-10	J A McCarthy	[illegible]
402	00-341	ARITHMETIC 39 (S) (R & E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-7	R Farrant	86
403	452-610	PURBECK CAVALIER 50 (S) (B Curtis) Mrs J Retter 7-11-7	S Fox (5)	87
404		BAYLINE STAR (J McCarthy) Miss H Knight 6-11-2	J F Titley	—
405	5630/00	COUNTRY CONCORDE 15 (B Coles) C Jones 6-11-2	G Upton	56
406	00026	DESERT BRAVE 52 (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) Mrs S Smith 6-11-2	R Guest	78
407	5	DREAM LEADER 88 (M Roberts) M Roberts 6-11-2	J Railton	—
408	0	IT'S A GEM 38 (F Tyrwhitt-Drake) J Gifford 7-11-2	P Hide	—
409	0-0	KILLUSTY CASTLE 15 (W Ponsonby) N Henderson 6-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	—
410	60-30	PENNCALER 91 (Mrs A Taylor) P Hobbs 6-11-2	R Dunwoody	77
411	6365	PHAR FROM FUNNY 28 (Mrs E Haycock) G Balding 5-11-2	—	80
412	00-120	SWING QUARTET 56 (G) (R Hartley) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2	C Llewellyn	84
413	0-0	THE OTHER MAN 14 (Stonebridge Racing) Miss L Siddall 6-11-2	P Holley	—
414	/02/202	THE REVEREND BERT 14 (M Kerr-Dineen & M Dalman) G Balding 8-11-2	A P McCoy	97
415	0-	TREGONY 343 (Mrs A Barclay) Mrs A Barclay 6-11-2	Mr M Rimell	—
416	P0	TUDOR TOWN 7 (P Purdy) K Bishop 8-11-2	S Burrough	65
417	435-0	GEMMA'S WAGER 91 (Mr & Mrs B Noakes) M Campion 6-10-11	M Richards	—
418	PP-6P	MINITURE MELODY 47 (P Ritchens) P Ritchens 8-10-11	A Tory	—
419	042	PAVLOVA 12 (Mrs M McGlone) R Rowe 6-10-11	D O'Sullivan	72
420	6	ROSE GARDEN 18 (T Pocock) R Pocock 7-10-11	R Davis	78

BETTING: 3-1 Keep It Zipped, 7-2 Arithmetic, 8-1 Swing Quartet, The Reverend Bert, 12-1 Purbeck Cavalier, 14-1 Killusty Castle, 16-1 others.

3.05 JACK O'NEWBURY NOVICES CHASE

(£3,168: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

501	5163/3-1	GOLDEN SPINNER 15 (D,G,S) (Sir Peter Miller) N Henderson 9-11-12	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
502	2500-P6	BUSKING ALONG 30 (S Noon) F Murphy 7-11-4	D J Kavanagh (5)	—
503	2-45F2	DANCING PIMPERNEL 16 (A Kidd, A Johnson) P Ritchens 10-11-4	A Tory	—
504	3/2-010	FOXBOW 50 (G) (E & W Robins) O Sherwood 6-11-4	J A McCarthy	—
505	FP-	LE GRAND LOUP 315P (G Blagbrough) D Hyde 7-11-4	P Holley	—
506	2/1000	LIVELY KNIGHT 17 (G) (A Weller) J Gifford 7-11-4	P Hide	—

BETTING: 4-6 Golden Spinner, 9-4 Foxbow, 5-1 Lively Knight, 16-1 Dancing Pimpernel, Busking Along, Le Grand Loup

3.40 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,826: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

601	0-F4640	REVEREND BROWN 40 (B) (J Palmer-Brown) O Sherwood 6-11-10	J A McCarthy	91
602	51	FROGMARCH 15 (D,S) (Mrs H Mills) R Phillips 6-11-8	J Railton	96
603	35-0051	PUREVALUE 8 (D,S) (A Simmons) M W Easterby 5-11-7	R Dunwoody	98
604	655-	LORD NITROGEN 353 (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 6-11-2	Mr J L Llewellyn	85
605	F5U60-	BLESSED MEMORY 343 (Mrs M Payne) R Dickin 5-11-0	R Bellamy	80
606	6200-00	AINSI SOIT IL 14 (B) (A-Men Partnership) F Murphy 5-11-0	R Davis	91
607	1/0F0UP	NAHLA 5 (S) (The Sale Six) Miss J Doyle 6-10-12	S McNeill	84
608	00-306	EL FREDDIE 56 (Mrs A Smith) J Old 6-10-12	G Upton	91
609	0-6P6	GREENSIDE CHAT 21 (The Fairway Ptnrs) S Dow 6-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
610	000	SWINGING SIXTIES 17 (K Higson) S L Moore 5-10-10	A P McCoy	—
611	00-060	PURBECK RAMBLER 15 (Miss M Lane) G Balding 5-10-9	A Tory	86
612	35-F	SIGHT'N SOUND 17 (Oh So Hardy Ptnrs) D Elsworth 5-10-9	P Holley	90
613	P6/426-5	THE MINE CAPTAIN 18 (G) (G Evans) S Sherwood 9-10-8	O Evans (7)	88
614	30/3-P0	CARELESS FARMER 44 (M Gibson) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-2	C Llewellyn	94
615	0-00423	LYPHARD'S FABLE 19 (Mrs G McFerran) T George 5-10-0	R Farrant	89
616	PF0	CHELWORTH WOLF 21 (R Giles) J Spearing 4-10-0	J Lodder	—

Long handicap: Lyphard's Fable 9-11, Chelworth Wolf 9-5

BETTING: 3-1 Purevalue, 5-1 Frogmarch, 6-1 Reverend Brown, Nahla, 10-1 Sight'n Sound, 12-1 The Mine Captain, El Freddie, 14-1 others

4.10 THATCHAM STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,783: 2m 110yd) (22 runners)

1	UF	ALS DINER 13P (M Roberts) M Roberts 6-11-2	T Jenks	—
2		ARCTIC FUSILIER (Mrs R Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2	C Llewellyn	—
3	0	BANKS OF THE BRIDE 17 (Mrs B Waring) Mrs B Waring 6-11-2	E Byrne	—
4		BARON BRUCE (Mrs M Palling) B Palling 6-11-2	R Farrant	—
5	0	BLOWN WIND 17 (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 5-11-2	J A McCarthy	—
6		DR DAVE (K McAuliffe) K McAuliffe 5-11-2	D O'Sullivan	—
7		GET REAL (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 5-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	—
8	464	GOATSFUT 14 (D Jones) B Preece 6-11-2	Gary Lyons	—
9	0	MAN-OF-THE-WORLD 42 (Mrs C Hopley) K Bailey 6-11-2	S McNeill	—
10	5	MUSIC MASTER 15 (M Davies) C Egerton 6-11-2	J Railton	—
11		NUTFIELD DOWN (A Wilson) S Sherwood 5-11-2	G Upton	—
12	4	RANGITIKEI 21 (Mrs J Mayo) C Mann 5-11-2	R Dunwoody	—
13		ROSSELL ISLAND (R & E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-2	A Bates (5)	—
14	3	SYMPHONY'S SON 15 (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 5-11-2		—
15	0	THE COCKERTOO 58 (Mrs J Bailey) J Mullins 5-11-2	R Davis	—
16	0	TRUE CHIMES 17 (Mrs A Taylor) C Jones 5-11-2	P Hide	—
17	0	TYPHOON 94 (The Cissbury Ring) M Campion 6-11-2	M Richards	—
18		CHAMPAGNE FRIEND (J McKenna) A J Wilson 5-10-11	P Crowley (7)	—
19	023	MAENAD 103 (Exors of Mrs C Robinson) D ffrench Davis 5-10-11	A P McCoy	—
20	P	AIM FOR STARDOM 15 (Mrs M Moloney) M Ahern 4-10-8	M Kelly (7)	—
21		NIGHT THYNE (M Roberts) M Roberts 4-10-8	R Guest	—
22	5	SPLENDID THYNE 17 (J Galvanoni) R Hoad 4-10-8	J F Titley	—

BETTING: 4-1 Get Real, 9-2 Arctic Fusilier, 6-1 Symphony's Son, 8-1 Rangitikei, 10-1 Blown Wind, Nutfield Down, Rossell Island 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

DONCASTER: Trainers: C Brooks, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 16 from 72, 22.2%; N Tinkler, 6 from 34, 17.6%, M Hammond, 6 from 39, 15.4%: G Richards, 5 from 33, 15.2%: O Sherwood, 5 from 34, 14.7%, J FitzGerald, 9 from 62, 14.5%.
Jockeys: P Niven, 16 winners from 56 rides, 28.6%. L Wyer, 11 from 52, 21.2%; D Gallagher, 3 from 17, 17.6%; M Dwyer, 7 from 52, 13.5%. Only qualifiers

NEWBURY: Trainers: O Sherwood, 18 winners from 71 runners, 25.4%, C Egerton, 3 from 12m 25.0%; D Nicholson, 26 from 113, 23.0%; N Henderson, 23 from 108, 21.3%; A Turnell, 10 from 47, 21.3%; S Sherwood, 7 from 35, 20.0%.
Jockeys: R Dunwoody, 38 winners from 149 rides, 25.5%; P Holley, 13 from 65, 20.0%; J A McCarthy, 3 from 17, 17.6%; S McNeill, 10 from 62, 16.1%; C Llewellyn, 11 from 97, 11.3%. Only qualifiers

هكذا من الأصل

Parker poised to increase early title lead

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

THE main contenders who dominate the betting market for the national riders' title have some ground to make up on Andrew Parker and the Lockerbie-based rider intends to maintain the pressure.

He returns to his native Northumberland today for the **Tynedale** meeting, where he has four more rides in an attempt to add to the ten winners he has already gained this term.

That is five more than his nearest rivals, Jamie Jukes and Paul Hacking, while Messrs Crow, Henley and Tarry, who were the leading title hopefuls at the start of play, have barely wiped away close-season cobwebs.

Parker rides Jimmy River for Kate Anderson in the men's open and should also be in contention on Howayman (confined) and Drakewrath (restricted).

Alastair Crow, with almost 30 horses upon which to call, remains favourite to retain his title and has numerous permutations of rides at the Sir WW Wynn's meeting north of his Shropshire home.

Polly Curling drew a blank last weekend but Strong Tarquin is just one likely winner for her at the **Duke Of Beaufort** fixture, where the final race, the restricted, includes entries from some of the best young horses in the South West.

Skip'N'Time, who was so impressive at Larkhill, has reported to have progressed since then by his trainer, Richard Miller, and may emerge triumphant. Miller's son, Michael, will be in the saddle.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Beaufort, Didmarton, six miles SW of Tetbury (first race 12.30): Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray, Parham, 4m SE of Pulborough (12.45): East Devon, Clyst St Mary, 7m E of Exeter (12.30): Sir WW Wynn's, Eaton Hall, 4m S of Chester (12.00), South Cornwall, Great Trethew, 3m SE of Liskeard (12.00), South Durham, Mordon, 6m E of Bishop Auckland (12.30); Suffolk, Ampton, 4m N of Bury St Edmunds (12.30): Tynedale, Corbridge, 5m N of Corbridge (12.30).
TOMORROW: Burton, Market Rasen, 16m NW of Lincoln (1.00): Farmers Bloodhounds, Heythrop, 2m NE of Chipping Norton (12.00); North Norfolk Harriers, Higham, 8m NE of Colchester (12.00): Ross Harriers, Garnons, 8m W of Hereford (12.30).

Penny A Day has last word in family feud

PENNY A DAY gained a 1½-length success over his half-brother, Direct Route, in a stirring finish to the £15,000-added Hennessy Cognac Special Novices' Hurdle at Kelso yesterday.

Peter Niven took the Mary Reveley-trained six-year-old to the front at the penultimate hurdle and had to drive him out to hold the persistent challenge of Direct Route with Santa Concerto 15 lengths third. It was a second success in Kelso's richest hurdles prize for Reveley — she was triumphant with Majed three years ago.

Penny A Day, the winner of seven Flat races and unbeaten in three outings over hurdles, is likely to be seen next in a novices' event at Aintree, although he does hold an entry in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival.

The Reveley team completed a near 45-1 double when Niven steered Erzadjan, owned by Newcastle United Football Club director Douglas Hall, to an emphatic 2½-length verdict over Stash The Cash, the 6-4 favourite, in the Federation Brewery Sporting Club Handicap Hurdle.

☐ Guy Watkins has been appointed to the board of the British Bloodstock Agency as a non-executive director. Watkins, at present chief executive of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, will join the company in May.

WARWICK

THUNDERER
1.45 Purple Splash. 2.20 Jacob's Wife. 2.50 Full Of Oats. 3.20 Persistent Gunner. 3.50 Mizyan. 4.20 Double Silk. 4.50 Joyful Pabs.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Double Silk.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.45 WATERGALL NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,057: 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

1 D/D AIR COMMAND 28F C Nash 6-11-2 W McFarland
2 640 ALPHA LEATHER 73 L Grassick 5-11-2 Mr J Grassick
3 P/P CAPITAIN 58 A Jones 7-11-2 S Curran (3)
4 300P CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 105 P Wegmann 9-11-2 T Eley
5 -F30 DORMSTON BOYO 58 T Wall 6-11-2 V Slattery
6 -600 FRENCH BUCK 15 (B,G) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2 T Jenks
7 0/5- GALES OF LAUGHTER 490 T Forster 7-11-2 A Thornton
8 1-5P GORDOK 53 (S) R Brotherton 5-11-2 C Maude
9 D/ PERSIAN HAZE 49F B McMath 7-11-2 V Smith
10 43 PURPLE SPLASH 42 (V) P Makin 6-11-2 J R Kavanagh
11 0FPP RADIO CAROLINE 14 M Tate 8-11-2 B Fenton (3)
12 0-34 ROGER DE MOWBRAY 105 R Brotherton 5-11-2 T Dascombe (5)
13 063 SEA FREEDOM 8 G Balding 5-11-2 B Clifford
14 /00 SILVER SUMAL 17 H Oliver 7-11-2 Jacqui Oliver
15 050 SWISS TACTIC 48 A Jessop 7-11-2 G Tormey (3)
16 0-04 ZIP YOUR LIP 14 Mrs P Townsley 6-11-2 G McCourt
17 4-05 HYDEMILLA 73 Mrs T Pilkington 6-10-11 G Hogan (3)

11-4 Purple Splash, 3-1 Sea Freedom, 5-1 Gales Of Laughter, 7-1 Zip Your Lip, 8-1 Roger De Mowbray, French Buck, 10-1 Dormston Boyo, 14-1 others.

2.20 EASTGATE NOVICES CHASE (£3,834: 2m) (3)

1 4-31 JACOB'S WIFE 77 (D,F,G) P Webber 6-11-3 G McCourt
2 1020 ARCTIC LIFE 17 (G,S) J Jenkins 7-11-2 S Fox
3 400U HASHAR 78 (B,F) P Wegmann 8-11-2 T Eley

1-2 Jacob's Wife, 3-1 Arctic Life, 9-2 Hashar.

2.50 CRUDWELL CUP
(Handicap chase: £7,165: 3m 5f) (12)

1 004P ANOTHER EXCUSE 14 (B,G,S) E O'Sullivan (Ire) 8-11-10 Mr W O'Sullivan
2 F-P4 MOORCROFT BOY 8 (CD,G,S) D Nicholson 11-11-9 R Johnson (3)
3 -FP3 BRACKENFIELD 44 (B,F,G,S) P Nicholls 10-11-8 D Bridgwater
4 0-55 LUCKY LANE 44 (B,F,G,S) P Hobbs 12-11-7 B Clifford
5 P200 COKENNY BOY 21 (F,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-6 W Marston
6 4FPF GHIA GNEUIAGH 15 (B,F,G,S) N T-Davies 10-11-1 C Maude
7 0311 FULL OF OATS 49 (CD,S) Miss H Knight 10-10-10 Mr J Culloty (7)
8 P-50 CAPABILITY BROWN 14 (F,G,S) J Bradley 9-10-10 J R Kavanagh
9 F64P FRONT LINE 18 (B,S) J J O'Neill 9-10-6 A Roche (3)
10 5413 DIAMOND FORT 12 (C,F,G,S) J McConnochie 11-10-3 M Brennan
11 55P6 PETTY BRIDGE 44 (F,G,S) A James 12-10-0 V Slattery
12 1431 BEAUREPAIRE 14 (C,G,S) R Alner 8-10-0 A Thornton

11-4 Full Of Oats, 9-2 Diamond Fort, 11-2 Brackenfield, 6-1 Moorcroft Boy, 7-1 Beaurepaire, 8-1 Ghia Gneuiagh, 10-1 Lucky Lane, 12-1 others.

3.20 EMSCOTT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,448: 2m) (22)

1 212- SARSTA GRAI 512 (F) P Wegmann 8-11-12 S Fowler (7)
2 4-4P DOON RIDGE 42 (B,D,G) J J O'Neill 5-11-10 A Roche
3 343 CRACKING PROSPECT 18 B Millman 5-11-10 D Salter (3)
4 2-23 ROYAL AG NAG 80 P Hobbs 6-11-9 G Tormey
5 4F-6 TEXAS SCRAMBLE 8 (D,G,S) B Baugh 7-11-8 R Johnson
6 1P/0 EASTER BABY 44 (D,S) P Cundell 10-11-6 Chris Webb
7 13F- JUNCTION TWENTYTWO 36F (F) C Broad 6-11-5 T J Murphy
8 02/F SASKIA'S HERO 73 (D,G,S) J Bottomley 9-11-4 E Husband
9 0-60 WHISPERING COURT 59 A Turnell 6-11-1 G Crone (5)
10 312- BIRTHPLACE 420 (D,S) J A Harris 6-11-0 C Rae (5)
11 506- TWISP 310 Mrs M Jones 5-10-12 J Cooke (7)
12 2655 SAN DIEGO CHARGER 115 A Barrow 5-10-12 Sophie Mitchell (3)
13 3205 PERSISTENT GUNNER 19 (D,G) R Hodges 6-10-8 T Dascombe
14 50-0 SEBASTOPOL 19 (G) P Murphy 7-10-7 L Aspell (3)
15 P6-5 CALVARO 101 A Jarvis 5-10-4 A Larnach
16 0-06 SPRINTFAYRE 45 (G) Mrs M Long 8-10-4 B Fenton
17 000- ENNISTYMON 464 J Mullins 5-10-4 S Curran
18 F505 LADY LACEY 17F (V) G Balding 9-10-2 R Arnold (5)
19 P00 FEISTY BOSS 53 N Twiston-Davies 4-10-1 D Walsh
20 -000 MR POPPLETON 19 R Brotherton 7-10-0 Guy Lewis
21 0068 MOULTAZIM 115 Mrs S Williams 6-10-0 G F Ryan
22 400- MARINERS COVE 372 C Broad 8-10-0 G Hogan

6-1 Royal Ag Nag, 7-1 Birthplace, Sprintfayre, 8-1 Sarsta Grai, Texas Scramble, 9-1 Persistent Gunner, 10-1 Calvaro, 12-1 others.

3.50 BLACKDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£5,508: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 -0P6 SUN SURFER 84 (G,S) T Forster 8-11-11 S Wynne
2 11-0 KAMIKAZE 14 (CD,G) J White 6-11-10 Mr J Culloty (7)
3 P-34 MIZYAN 7 (D,G) J Banks 8-11-7 J R Kavanagh
4 3102 LYING EYES 16 (S) W G M Turner 5-10-8 J Power (7)
5 3034 MORSTOCK 16 (BF,G) R Hodges 6-10-7 T Dascombe (5)
6 4-00 SUPREME MASTER 58 (S) Miss C Johnsey 6-10-4 G Hogan (3)
7 -000 BRIEF REUNION 7 (G) S Kettlewell 5-10-1 Sophie Mitchell (5)
8 P4PP SOLO GENT 8 (F,G) A Jones 7-10-0 S Curran (3)
9 3F4- KAYTAK 411 (V,F,G,S) M Ahern 9-10-0 C Maude
10 2210 MULTY 105 (B,F) C Mann 4-10-0 W Marston
11 0505 FLY BY NORTH 14 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 8-10-0 X Aizpuru (7)

11-4 Lying Eyes, 7-2 Morstock, 4-1 Mizyan, 6-1 Fly By North, 7-1 Kamikaze, 8-1 Sun Surfer, 10-1 Kaytak, 12-1 others.

4.20 TOWN OF WARWICK FOXHUNTERS TROPHY (Hunters chase: £1,123: 3m 2f) (6)

1 35-1 DOUBLE SILK 19 (CD,F,G,S) R Wilkins 12-12-10 R Treloggen (3)
2 35-5 BARN POOL 14P R Davies 14-12-3 E Collins (7)
3 P2-P GOODSHOT RICH 8 (B,D,G,S) C Brooks 12-12-3 E James (7)
4 340- NEW MILL HOUSE 286 (G,S) Miss S Cook 13-12-3 F Hutsby (7)
5 PF-0 ROLLING BALL 250 (C,S) S Brookshaw 13-12-3 R Ford (7)
6 0/U THORNHILL 8 F Matthews 6-11-12 DOUBTFUL

4-11 Double Silk, 5-1 Rolling Ball, 8-1 Goodshot Rich, 20-1 New Mill House, 25-1 Barn Pool.

4.55 EDSTONE MARES ONLY INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,553: 2m) (25)

1 132 MID DAY CHASER 16 (F) P Webber 5-11-11 Mr P Scott (7)
2 ARCTIC SUNRISE S Earle 6-11-4 B McGann (7)
3 CONNAUGHT'S PRIDE P Hobbs 5-11-4 G McCourt
4 0 COUNTRY TOWN 21 A Jones 6-11-4 G Hogan (3)
5 DOLCE NOTTE M Pipe 6-11-4 D Bridgwater
6 0-0 ELL GEE 72 Mrs P Townsley 6-11-4 W McFarland
7 FLAMING ROSE J Edwards 6-11-4 Mr M Daly (7)
8 MAINDORAN M Sheppard 5-11-4 C Maude
9 2 MAYLIN MAGIC 108 M McCormack 5-11-4 A Thornton
10 MISS BARTHOLOMEW Mrs J Pitman 6-11-4 Mr M McGrath (7)
11 0 MOOR HALL LADY 15 K Bailey 5-11-4 A Larnach (3)
12 0 MO'S CHARLTON IMP 17 A Barrow 5-11-4 S Burrough
13 RED RIVER C Drewe 5-11-4 Mr J Culloty (7)
14 SUMMIT ELSE N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 D Walsh (5)
15 4 TARA THE GREY 16 Miss H Knight 5-11-4 G F Ryan (5)
16 VANDA'S GLORY M Barraclough 5-11-4 G Tormey (3)
17 F ZEN OR 57 J Mullins 5-11-4 S Curran (3)
18 0 AMAZON HEIGHTS 14 L Cottrell 4-10-10 Guy Lewis (3)
19 BLUE HAVANA Graeme Roe 4-10-10 S Graham
20 COUNTESS MILLIE Miss K Waterhouse 4-10-10 W Humphreys
21 GALE SPRING R Hodges 4-10-10 T Dascombe (5)
22 JOYFUL PABS Mrs J Pitman 4-10-10 W Marston
23 6 JUST JASMINE 17 K Bishop 4-10-10 R Greene
24 0 ROSALEE ROYALE 15 Mrs M Long 4-10-10 B Fenton (3)
25 0 SOUTHWICK PARK 16 M Sheppard 4-10-10 D Leahy

7-2 Summit Else, 5-1 Joyful Pabs, 6-1 Maylin Magic, 7-1 Dolce Notte, 8-1 Miss Bartholomew, Mid Day Chaser, 10-1 Tara The Grey, 12-1 others

Blinkered first time

DONCASTER: 5.10 Rowdy Yates. LINGFIELD PARK: 4.45 Mister Aspecto. NEWBURY: 3.40 Reverend Brown. WARWICK: 1.45 Purple Splash, French Buck. 2.50 Another Excuse, Ghia Gneulagh, Brackenfield. WOLVERHAMPTON: 7.00 Ebony Boy. 8.00 Our Tom. 9.30 Taniyar.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
2.10 Rowlandsons Charm. 2.40 General Haven. 3.10 Bartok. 3.45 Secret Aly. 4.15 Stand Tall. 4.45 Hever Golf Eagle.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Badger Bay. 3.10 QUALITY (nap). 3.45 Secret Aly.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 TAURUS CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,541: 1m) (7 runners)

1 0-55 CRYSTAL FAST 30 P Kelleway 8-13 C Domergue (7) 5
2 OLD GOLD N TAN J Poulton 8-5 P McCabe (3) 2
3 4046 APARTMENTS ABROAD 5 (CD,G) K McAuliffe 8-3 S Sanders 3
4 2124 ROWLANDSONS CHARM 14 (V,CD,G) G L Moore 8-2 N Adams 4
5 1-60 DOMETTES 23 (C,BF,F) R Hannon 8-0 T Williams 1
6 06-4 TRIBLE PET 14 B Gubby 7-12 J Quinn 7
7 P GRAYCO CHOICE P Clarke 7-10 Iona Wands (7) 6

9-4 Rowlandsons Charm, 3-1 Domettes, 7-2 Crystal Fast, 5-1 Apartments Abroad, 7-1 Trible Pet, 8-1 Old Gold N Tan, 20-1 P Grayco Choice.

2.40 PISCES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,541: 7f) (8)

1 525 BARANOV 10 (BF) D Murray Smith 9-0 R Cochrane 3
2 -323 GENERAL HAVEN 12 (BF) T Naughton 9-0 J Fortune 8
3 0400 GHOSTLY APPARITION 21 J Upson 9-0 D Sweeney (7) 1
4 D- ISITOFF 142 C Dwyer 9-0 D R McCabe (3) 5
5 2-42 BADGER BAY 16 C Dwyer 8-9 J Stack (3) 2
6 INTO DEBT J Poulton 8-9 P McCabe (3) 6
7 000- SPIRAL FLYER 145 M Usher 8-9 M Wigham 4
8 3-03 TAHYA 16 C C Elsey 8-9 D Harrison 7

9-4 Badger Bay, 3-1 Tahya, 7-2 General Haven, 4-1 Baranov, 7-1 Spiral Flyer, 10-1 Ghostly Apparition, 12-1 others.

3.10 CLASSIC PROMOTIONS RAPPORTEUR CONDITIONS STAKES (£4,870: 1m 2f) (6)

1 11-0 BARTOK 13 (D,F,G) P Kelleway 5-10-3 R Cochrane 3
2 434- NO PATTERN 112J (C,F,G) G L Moore 4-9-7 S Whitworth 1
3 034- STATAJACK 37J (B,C,D,F,G,S) D Elsworth 8-9-7 A Procter 6
4 21-0 EXPEDITIOUS WAY 18 R Charlton 3-8-4 S Sanders 2
5 24-2 QUALITY 18 (B,C,F,G) W O'Gorman 3-8-1 Emma O'Gorman 5
6 256- KIROV LADY 120 (F) R Hannon 3-7-10 G Bardwell 4

5-2 Expeditious Way, 3-1 No Pattern, 4-1 Kirov Lady, 9-2 Quality, 6-1 Statajack, 8-1 Bartok.

3.45 JULIA GARNER HANDICAP (£5,404: 1m) (11)

1 100- DUNE RIVER 163 (CD,F,G) D Loder 7-10-0 DOUBTFUL 10
2 -211 SECRET SPRING 21 (CD,G) P Hedger 4-9-9 S Raymont 8
3 -512 QUEEN OF ALL BIRDS 24 (CD,BF,G,S) R Boss 5-9-1 A Clark 11
4 14-0 SECRET ALY 11 (C,D,F,G) C Brittain 6-9-1 M Larsen 2
5 0-61 DANCING LAWYER 32 (CD,F,G) B Meehan 5-8-11 M Tebbutt 1
6 12-6 NEUWEST 43J (D,BF,F) N Walker 4-8-11 J Stack (3) 3
7 564- PETOSKIN 195 (S) J Pearce 4-8-11 G Bardwell 6
8 5211 SWEET SUPPOSIN 11 (V,CD,G) C Dwyer 5-8-9 C Dwyer 5
9 0-30 PENGAMON 17 (F) H Collingridge 4-8-7 J Quinn 9
10 312- SAND STAR 75 (C,G) D Haydn Jones 4-8-3 D Wright (3) 7
11 D-01 NORDINEX 11 (CD,F,G) R Armstrong 4-8-2 M Fenton 4

3-1 Queen Of All Birds, 4-1 Secret Spring, Dancing Lawyer, 6-1 Secret Aly, 7-1 Nordinex, 8-1 Sweet Supposin, 10-1 others.

4.15 GEMINI HANDICAP (£3,485: 6f) (9)

1 -020 SPENDER 18 (CD,BF,F,G) P Harris 7-10-0 J Stack (3) 4
2 1-44 FRIENDLY BRAVE 10 (C,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-10 D Griffiths (5) 3
3 60-6 SAMSOLOM 7 (CD,F,G) P Howling 8-9-10 J Quinn 7
4 3121 STAND TALL 8 (CD,G) C Thornton 4-9-5 D McKeown 8
5 0262 INVOCATION 21 (CD,F,G) A Moore 9-9-4 A Clark 1
6 U-06 OFFICE HOURS 25 C Cyzer 4-8-10 D Biggs 5
7 2136 DAHIYAH 9 (V,CD,BF,F,G) G L Moore 5-8-10 A Whelan (3) 2
8 5231 OUR SHADEE 4 (V,CD,G) K Ivory 6-8-10 (6ex) C Scally (7) 6
9 0222 SHARP IMP 4 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 6-8-6 W Woods 9

5-2 Stand Tall, 4-1 Spender, 9-2 Friendly Brave, 5-1 Invocation, 8-1 Dahiyah, Sharp Imp, 10-1 Our Shadee, 12-1 others.

4.45 LEO HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,818: 1m 2f) (8)

1 204- AUTOBABBLE 78 R Hannon 9-7 R Hughes 7
2 032- SAHHAR 75 R Armstrong 9-6 W Woods 1
3 -421 MISTER ASPECTO 16 (V,C,G) M Johnston 9-6 T Williams 4
4 41-3 WILLIE RUSHTON 16 (D,G) G L Moore 9-2 S Whitworth 2
5 30-6 STILL HERE 54 M Heaton-Ellis 8-13 A Clark 6
6 3-03 UONI 15 C Brittain 8-13 M Larsen 5
7 5533 HEVER GOLF EAGLE 12 T Naughton 8-9 D Harrison 8
8 00-4 BEAR TO DANCE 16 John Berry 8-3 M Fenton 3

9-4 Sahhar, 7-2 Autobabble, 9-2 Mister Aspecto, 5-1 Willie Rushton, 7-1 Uoni, 10-1 Hever Golf Eagle, 12-1 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
7.00 Lady Dignity. 7.30 Mystic Tempo. 8.00 Reverand Thickness. 8.30 Nikita's Star. 9.00 Hannah's Usher. 9.30 Duralock Fencer.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 BLACKSMITH LIMITED STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,085: 1m 100yd) (5 runners)

1 2211 BIT OF BOTHER 5 (D,G) T Barron 9-4 J Fortune 4
2 2301 YEOMAN OLIVER 3 (CD,G) B McMahon 9-1 L Newton (5) 5
3 4-50 EBONY BOY 15 (B,G) J Wharton 8-12 S D Williams 1
4 6-23 GREEN GEM 20 S Williams 8-7 J Tate 2
5 4-63 LADY DIGNITY 38 P Makin 8-7 S Sanders 3

6-4 Yeoman Oliver, 2-1 Bit Of Bother, 11-4 Lady Dignity, 8-1 others.

7.30 BAKER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,749: 6f) (9)

1 1-05 LE SPORT 14 (C,G) A Bailey 9-7 D Wright (3) 5
2 5511 COPPER BRIGHT 17 (B,CD,G) P Haslam 9-7 J Fortune 3
3 400- CLASSIC VICTORY 166 (D,F) R Harris 9-4 D Batteate 4
4 5151 CHILIBANG BANG 6 (CD,G,S) J Berry 9-4 P Roberts (5) 6
5 -112 MYSTIC TEMPO 17 (CD,BF,G) J Scargill 9-2 S Drowne (3) 8
6 005- LIA FAIL 130 R Hollinshead 8-9 F Lynch (7) 7
7 4042 THE WAD 12 D Nicholls 8-6 Martin Dwyer (7) 2
8 -051 MISS OFFSET 5 (B,CD,G,S) M Johnston 8-4 (6ex) T Williams 1
9 0-56 LEARNING CURVE 11 M Prescott 7-10 G Bardwell 9

9-4 Mystic Tempo, 3-1 Copper Bright, 5-1 The Wad, Chilibang Bang, 8-1 Miss Offset, 10-1 Le Sport, Learning Curve, 12-1 others.

8.00 BENTLEY JENNISON HANDICAP
(£2,775: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

1 05-6 REVERAND THICKNESS 17 (C,G,S) S Williams 5-10-0 J Fortune 6
2 -105 OUR TOM 26 (B,C,BF,G) J Wharton 4-9-9 C Teague (5) 9
3 1305 HAND OF STRAW 18 (V,C,G) P Murphy 4-9-6 S Drowne (3) 7
4 -453 BALLYRAG 15 (S) R Fahey 5-8-13 S D Williams 11
5 -402 JALMAID 12 (C,G) B McMahon 4-8-13 S Sanders 2
6 -063 MARADATA 12 (G) R Hollinshead 4-8-13 M Wigham 3
7 50-4 MOWLAIE 19 (F) D Chapman 5-8-10 A Culhane 10
8 -221 ZAHID 4 (G) K Burke 5-8-10 (6ex) J Quinn 13
9 -203 MISLEMANI 15 (G) A Newcombe 6-8-9 D R McCabe (3) 1
10 -053 TRUMBLE 21 (G) C Thornton 4-8-3 L Charnock 5
11 0-00 ROYAL ACCLAIM 21 (V,F,G,S) J Bradley 11-7-10 Darren Moffatt (3) 12
12 101- WHITELOCK QUEST 294 (C,G) N Berry 8-7-10 Adelle Gibbons (7) 8
13 6050 EAST BARNS 12 (B,F,G,S) S Gollings 8-7-10 P Fessey (5) 4

3-1 Jalmaid, 6-1 Our Tom, 8-1 Hand Of Straw, Reverand Thickness, Mislemani, Zahid, 10-1 Maradata, 12-1 others.

8.30 ELITE RACING CLUB HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,436: 1m 4f) (7)

1 1441 CHINA CASTLE 8 (C,G) P Haslam 9-7 J Fortune 3
2 4121 MONTECRISTO 2 (BF,G) R Guest 9-7 D R McCabe (3) 6
3 0-12 NIKITA'S STAR 10 (C,G) D Murray Smith 9-0 M Larsen 7
4 1122 DANCING CAVALIER 5 (G) R Hollinshead 8-13 F Lynch (7) 1
5 0-23 IN THE BAND 21 (BF) Lord Huntingdon 8-11 P McCabe (3) 2
6 3103 THORNTOUN ESTATE 14 (G) M Johnston 8-6 D McKeown 4
7 40-0 IMAGE MAKER 57 (C,G) B Preece 7-12 P Fessey (5) 5

5-2 Montecristo, 7-2 China Castle, 4-1 In The Band, 5-1 Dancing Cavalier, 7-1 Nikita's Star, Thorntoun Estate, 16-1 Image Maker

9.00 SKY ROOFING SELLING STAKES
(£2,085: 5f) (8)

1 03-1 SHADOW JURY 52 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-9-4 L Charnock 6
2 0515 PRIMULA BAIRN 34 (B,CD,G,S) D Nicholls 6-8-13 Alex Greaves 5
3 /0-4 CERBERA 12 J Smith 7-8-11 C Teague (5) 8
4 4053 HANNAH'S USHER 28 (CD,F,G) C Murray 4-8-11 M Fenton 3
5 -402 RENNYHOLME 14 (B) J Hetherton 5-8-11 N Adams 7
6 0-00 TOMMY TEMPEST 51 (V,CD,G,S) R Peacock 7-8-11 P McCabe (3) 2
7 0805 FIERY FOOTSTEPS 5 S Campion 4-8-6 F Lynch (7) 4
8 -000 PATS DELIGHT 17 S Coathup 4-8-6 Amanda Sanders (5) 1

5-4 Shadow Jury, 11-4 Primula Bairn, 4-1 Rennyholme, 6-1 Hannah's Usher, 14-1 Cerbera, Fiery Footsteps, 16-1 others.

9.30 PLYVINE CATERING MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£2,433: 7f) (12)

1 0643 SO NATURAL 10 E Alston 4-9-11 S D Williams 4
2 60-0 MICKELLAR 50 T Barron 7-9-6 J Fortune 11
3 5-33 YOUNG FREDERICK 38 K Burke 3-9-3 T Ashley (7) 6
4 00-0 CHIEF'S LADY 19 J Bradley 4-9-3 J Quinn 7
5 0405 TANIYAR 16 (V) R Hollinshead 4-9-2 M Wigham 9
6 450- CLASSIC DELIGHT 156 R Harris 3-9-0 D Batteate 2
7 500- DURALOCK FENCER 117 P Murphy 3-8-11 S Drowne (3) 3
8 00-6 YOUNG BEN 5 J Wainwright 4-8-10 D McKeown 12
9 405- HO MEI SURPRISE 243 B Preece 4-8-10 F Lynch (7) 5
10 0020 WOOLVERSTONE HALL 21 (B) D Murray Smith 4-8-8 N Adams 8
11 3U0- MALZOOM 158 S Kettlewell 4-8-8 J Fortune 10
12 0600 SPEEDY SNAPS PRIDE 22 (B) P Cundell 4-8-7 M Larsen 1

3-1 Young Frederick, 4-1 Duralock Fencer, 6-1 So Natural, 8-1 Taniyar, Woolverstone Hall, 12-1 McKellar, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Lingfield Park

TRAINERS: P Harris, 9 winners from 33 rides, 27.3%; N Walker, 8 from 35, 22.9%; R Armstrong, 10 from 50, 20.0%; D Murray Smith, 12 from 62, 19.4%; K McAuliffe, 10 from 54, 18.5%; W O'Gorman, 29 from 168, 17.3%; M Johnston, 36 from 212, 17.0%

JOCKEYS: S Raymont, 4 winners from 8 rides, 50.0%; Emma O'Gorman, 33 from 165, 20%; R Cochrane, 50 from 295, 16.9%; D McKeown, 19 from 114, 16.7%; S Whitworth, 23 from 143, 16.1%.

Warwick

TRAINERS: R Wilkins, 4 winners from 4 runners, 100.0%; Mrs M Jones, 3 from 6, 50.0%; W G M Turner, 3 from 8, 37.5%; M Pipe, 31 from 124, 25.0%; Miss H Knight, 8 from 35, 22.9%; D Nicholson, 25 from 115, 21.7%; Mrs J Pitman, 17 from 87, 19.5%.

JOCKEYS: T Jenks, 8 winners from 37 rides, 21.6%; R Johnson, 4 from 24, 16.7%; J R Kavanagh, 4 from 31, 12.9%; W Marston, 10 from 81, 12.3%; D Bridgwater, 7 from 59, 11.9%.

Wolverhampton

TRAINERS: M Johnston, 33 winners from 124 runners, 26.6%, Lord Huntingdon, 16 from 68, 23.5%; P Haslam, 23 from 107, 21.5%; S Williams, 9 from 42, 21.4%; M Prescott, 13 from 62, 21.0%; R Guest, 5 from 25, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Tate, 9 winners from 53 rides, 17.0%; P McCabe, 6 from 43, 14.0%; D Wright, 20 from 167, 12.0%; P Fessey, 4 from 35, 11.4%; J Fortune, 8 from 71, 11.3%. Only qualifiers.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

FA Carling Premiership
(1) Coventry v West Ham
(2) Leeds v Bolton
(3) Manchester City v Blackburn
(4) Middlesbrough v Everton
(5) Queens Park Rangers v Arsenal
(6) Sheffield Weds v Nottm Forest
(7) Tottenham v Southampton
(8) Wimbledon v Chelsea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	27	19	4	4	52	25	61
Man Utd	28	17	6	5	55	29	57
Liverpool	27	15	7	5	53	24	52
Aston Villa	27	14	7	6	39	21	49
Tottenham	27	12	9	6	34	25	45
Arsenal	27	12	8	7	35	25	44
Everton	28	12	7	9	42	30	43
Chelsea	28	11	9	8	34	30	42
Blackburn	28	12	5	11	42	33	41
Nottm Forest	27	10	10	7	35	38	40
West Ham	28	11	6	12	31	37	38
Leeds	25	10	5	10	31	37	35
Middlesbrough	28	9	7	12	28	37	34
Sheff Wed	27	7	8	12	36	43	29
Southampton	26	5	10	11	27	39	25
Wimbledon	27	6	7	14	39	55	25
Coventry	27	5	10	12	33	49	25
Man City	27	6	7	14	19	39	25
QPR	27	6	3	18	22	41	21
Bolton	28	4	4	20	28	58	16

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(9) Birmingham v Sheffield Utd
(10) Derby v Huddersfield
(11) Luton v Crystal Palace
(—) Millwall v Wolverhampton
(12) Portsmouth v Charlton
(13) Reading v Watford
(14) Southend v Norwich
(15) Stoke v Barnsley
(16) West Bromwich v Port Vale

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby	33	16	12	5	52	35	60
Sunderland	32	14	12	6	37	25	54
Charlton	31	13	13	5	45	33	52
Huddersfield	31	13	10	8	43	34	49
Stoke	31	13	10	8	43	34	49
Barnsley	32	12	11	9	43	46	47
Leicester	32	11	13	8	47	43	46
Crystal Palace	31	11	12	8	42	40	45
Southend	32	12	8	12	35	41	44
Millwall	34	11	11	12	34	44	44
Ipswich	30	11	10	9	53	44	43
Portsmouth	33	10	10	13	52	53	40
Norwich	33	10	10	13	43	42	40
Birmingham	30	10	10	10	40	41	40
Grimsby	30	9	12	9	35	37	39
Wolverhmptn	31	9	11	11	42	42	38
Tranmere	31	9	10	12	40	37	37
Reading	31	8	13	10	36	40	37
Oldham	30	8	12	10	38	33	36
Luton	32	9	9	14	31	44	36
Sheff Utd	34	8	11	15	40	50	35
West Brom	31	10	5	16	37	50	35
Port Vale	29	7	11	11	34	41	32
Watford	30	5	10	15	32	45	25

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v Shamrock (7.0)

Second division
(17) Bournemouth v Oxford Utd
(18) Bradford v York
(19) Brighton v Brentford
(20) Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury
(21) Burnley v Blackpool
(22) Carlisle v Stockport
(23) Notts County v Hull
(24) Peterborough v Chesterfield
(25) Swansea v Bristol City
(26) Walsall v Rotherham
(27) Wrexham v Crewe
(28) Wycombe v Swindon

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	29	17	9	3	49	21	60
Blackpool	32	16	10	6	50	30	58
Crewe	30	17	6	7	55	33	57
Notts County	28	14	9	5	39	22	51
Chesterfield	27	14	7	6	43	28	49
Oxford Utd	31	13	8	10	41	31	47
Bristol Rovers	32	13	8	11	40	42	47
Wrexham	30	11	13	6	44	35	46
Stockport	33	12	10	11	43	37	46
Bradford	31	13	5	13	42	47	44
Bristol City	33	11	11	11	36	41	44
Wycombe	31	10	12	9	40	37	42
Bournemouth	32	12	5	15	36	47	41
Shrewsbury	32	11	7	14	42	48	40
Peterborough	30	10	9	11	48	43	39
Burnley	29	10	9	10	42	41	39
Rotherham	32	10	9	13	37	44	39
Walsall	29	9	9	11	31	26	36
Brentford	31	9	9	13	30	38	36
Carlisle	31	7	10	14	39	51	31
York	29	8	7	14	33	45	31
Swansea	33	6	11	16	30	57	29
Brighton	31	6	8	17	29	49	26
Hull	30	3	11	16	23	49	20

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third round: Boreham Wood v Chorley; Guiseley v Gresley; Hyde v Carshalton; Macclesfield v Sudbury T; Merthyr v Northwich; Radcliffe v Gateshead, Stevenage v Kettering

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Sixth round replay: Raunds v Mangotsfield

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry v Caernarfon. Caersws v Connah's Quay; Cemaes Bay v Newtown (2.30): Conwy v Ton Pentre (2.30); Cwmbran v Flint (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Porthmadog: Holywell v Afan Lido; Llansantffraid v Inter Cardiff: Rhyl v Aberystwyth

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Chelsea.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Linfield; Cliftonville v Bangor; Glentoran v Glenavon; Portadown v Crusaders.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Ipswich. Chelsea v Gillingham, Fulham v West Ham: Leyton Orient v Tottenham Hotspur, Millwall v Watford; Norwich v Cambridge Utd: Portsmouth v QPR, Southend v Charlton

OTHER MATCH: Sligo v Brondby (Den) (7.30).

SCHOOLS (10.30 unless stated): Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Monkseaton v Blackburn Coll. Inter-Association: Barrow v St Helens; Dartford v Bexley; Hull v Doncaster; Leeds v Barnsley; Luton v Huntingdon; Nottingham v Wellingborough.

Third division
(29) Bury v Scunthorpe
(30) Chester v Cardiff
(31) Doncaster v Darlington
(32) Fulham v Lincoln
(33) Hereford v Northampton
(34) Leyton Orient v Colchester
(35) Mansfield v Barnet
(36) Plymouth v Gillingham
(37) Preston v Rochdale
(38) Scarborough v Hartlepool
(39) Torquay v Exeter
(40) Wigan v Cambridge Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	32	17	10	5	39	13	61
Preston	31	15	13	3	60	28	58
Darlington	32	13	12	7	37	29	51
Plymouth	33	13	11	9	49	37	50
Chester	31	13	10	8	50	37	49
Bury	31	13	10	8	44	37	49
Wigan	32	13	8	11	43	41	47
Doncaster	32	13	8	11	38	42	47
Northampton	32	12	10	10	37	33	46
Colchester	32	10	14	8	42	39	44
Barnet	33	10	14	9	38	35	44
Exeter	32	8	14	10	33	37	38
Rochdale	31	9	10	12	42	40	37
Scunthorpe	30	9	10	11	41	39	37
Hereford	29	8	13	8	40	35	37
Leyton Orient	32	10	7	15	33	44	37
Scarborough	33	7	15	11	32	41	36
Cardiff	32	9	9	14	30	39	36
Cambridge Utd	31	9	8	14	42	52	35
Fulham	31	7	14	10	38	42	35
Hartlepool	31	8	11	12	33	41	35
Mansfield	31	6	16	9	38	50	34
Lincoln	31	7	12	12	31	50	33
Torquay	31	4	11	16	25	54	23

Vauxhall Conference
(—) Altrincham v Southport
(—) Dover v Halifax
(—) Farnborough v Slough
(—) Morecambe v Hednesford
(—) Telford v Stalybridge
(—) Woking v Welling

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington v Emley; Bishop Auckland v Bamber Br; Colwyn Bay v Leek. Gainsborough v Droylsden; Knowsley v Matlock. Marine v Buxton; Winsford v Blyth Spin; Witton v Barrow. First division: Atherton LR v Alfreton: Curzon Ashton v Ashton Utd; Farsley Celtic v Workington; Fleetwood v Whitley Bay, Gt Harwood v Congleton; Gretna v Bradford PA; Lancaster v Netherfield; Leigh v Harrogate T; Lincoln Utd v Eastwood T; Worksop v Warrington

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield v Goole, Belper T v Armthorpe Welf; Glasshoughton Welf v Hatfield Main; Hallam v Ossett Al; Hucknall v Sheffield; Liversedge v Maltby MW, N Ferriby v Stocksbridge PS; Ossett T v Brigg; Pickering v Arnold; Thackley v Denaby.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Trafford; Chadderton v Glossop NE; Clitheroe v Flixton; Darwen v Blackpool Rov; Eastwood H v Burscough; Holker OB v St Helens; Maine Rd v Salford; Newcastle T v Prescot; Rossendale v Mossley: Penrith v Nantwich; Skelmersdale v Kidsgrove.

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(41) Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
(42) Celtic v Hearts
(43) Motherwell v Falkirk
(44) Partick v Raith

First division
(45) Airdrie v Dundee Utd
(46) Clydebank v St Johnstone (1.0)
(47) Dundee v Dumbarton (1.0)
(48) Dunfermline v Greenock Morton
(49) St Mirren v Hamilton

Second division
(50) Ayr v Berwick
(51) Forfar v Stenhousemuir
(52) Queen of South v Clyde
(53) Stirling v East Fife
(54) Stranraer v Montrose

Third division
(55) Albion v Arbroath
(56) Cowdenbeath v Alloa
(57) East Stirling v Brechin
(58) Livingston v Caledonian Th
(—) Queen's Park v Ross County

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Newport AFC; Burton v Halesowen; Chelmsford v Worcester, Cheltenham v Gravesend and Northfleet. Gloucester v VS Rugby; Ilkeston v Hastings; Salisbury v Cambridge C. Midland division: Bedworth v Bury T; Bridgnorth v Sutton Coldfield; Corby v Nuneaton; Evesham v Bilston, Grantham v Tamworth; King's Lynn v Moor Green; Leicester Utd v Solihull; Paget v RC Warwick; Redditch v Dudley T; Rothwell v Buckingham T. Southern division: Bashley v Sittingbourne: Braintree v Havant; Cinderford v Witney; Erith and Belvedere v Tonbridge Angels; Fisher 93 v Yate: Forest Green v Fareham; Margate v Clevedon; Newport IoW v Weston-super-Mare; Poole v Ashford; Waterlooville v Fleet. Weymouth v Trowbridge

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Chertsey; Bishop's Stortford v Grays: Bromley v Hendon; Dulwich v Molesey: Harrow v Sutton Utd; Hayes v Kingstonian; Purfleet v Yeading; St Albans v Hitchin; Walton and Hersham v Yeovil. First division: Barton Rovers v Wokingham: Bognor Regis v Uxbridge: Chesham v Basingstoke; Leyton Pennant v Berkhamsted; Maidenhead Utd v Staines: Marlow v Ruislip Manor, Oxford C v Abingdon T: Thame v Heybridge Swift; Tooting and Mitcham v Aldershot T. Wembley v Billericay: Whyteleafe v Barking. Second division: Banstead v Dorking. Bedford T v Hungerford, Chalfont St Peter v Hemel Hempstead; Croydon v Metropolitan Police: Edgware v Bracknell; Hampton v Egham: Leatherhead v Saffron Walden; Tilbury v Cheshunt; Witham v Collier R: Wivenhoe v Ware. Third division: Aveley v Camberley, Clapton v Epsom and Ewell; Cove v Northwood; Harefield v Southall; Harlow v Flackwell Heath; Horsham v Hornchurch; Leighton v East Thurrock; Lewes v Wingate and Finchley; Tring v Kingsbury, Windsor and Eton v Wealdstone

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon U v Hullbridge; Burnham Rblrs v Brentwood; Concord v Ford; Eton Manor v Stansted. Cup: Romford v Great Wakering.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Brook House: Croydon v Hillingdon Borough; Hanwell v Cockfosters; St Margaretsbury v Amersham; Tottenham Omada v Corinthian-Casuals: Tufnell Park v Waltham Abbey: Willesden (Hawkeye) v Beaconsfield Sycob; Woolwich v Brimsdown.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Torrington; Bideford v Westbury; Brislington v Paulton; Calne v Frome: Chippenham v Bridport; Crediton v Barnstaple; Elmore v Bristol MF; Taunton v Mangotsfield; Tiverton v Odd Down.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Wroxham; Felixstowe v Newmarket; Haverhill v Watton; Lowestoft v Hadleigh Utd; March v Great Yarmouth; Sudbury v Wisbech.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures v Swanage and Herston; Lymington v BAT; Totton v Thatcham; Bournemouth v Andover; Cowes Sp v Christchurch; Downton v Ryde Sp; East Cowes v Eastleigh: Petersfield v Bemerton Heath.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Langney Sp, Burgess Hill v Hassocks; Crowborough v Shoreham; Eastbourne T v Pagham; Hailsham v Wick; Mile Oak v Horsham YMCA; Oakwood v Whitehawk; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Saltdean; Southwick v Portfield; Three Bridges v Ringmer.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Herne Bay; Chatham v Hythe; Corinthian v Thamesmead; Cray v Furness; Crockenhill v Faversham; Deal v Tunbridge Wells: Folkestone Invicta v Whitstable; Ramsgate v Slade Green; Sheppey v Dartford

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon Utd v Lambourn Sp; Banbury v Endsleigh; Bicester v Almondsbury, Burnham v Fairford; Carterton v Cirencester; Didcot v Highworth, Kintbury v Swindon Supermarine; North Leigh v Tuffley; Shortwood v Brackley.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe v Wellingborough, Desborough v Bourne; Holbeach v S and L Corby; Kempston v Raunds; Potton v Northampton Sp; Stamford v Long Buckby; Stotfold v Mirrlees Blackstone; Wootton v Spalding

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmere SM v Hinckley Ath; Bolehall S v Shepshed D; Knypersley v Rushall; Oldbury v Willenhall; Pershore T v Barwell, Rocester v Chasetown; Sandwell v Stratford T; Shifnal T v Blakenhall; West Midlands Police v Halesowen H.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich v Tividale; Brierley Hill v Lichfield; Cradley v Stafford T; Darlaston v Ettingshall Ht; Hill Top v Walsall Wood; Ludlow v Gornal; Lye v Stourport; Pelsall v Westfields; Wolves C v Wednesfield.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Consett v Chester-le-Street; Crook v Dunston Fed; Durham v RTM Newcastle, Murton v Seaham RS; Shildon v Bedlington Terr, Stockton v Guisborough; W Auckland v Ferryhill; Whickham v Tow Law, Whitby v Peterlee.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Bradfieldians v Brentwoods, Lancing v Carthusians. Premier division: Aldenhamians v Chigwellians; Malvernians v Etonians; Reptonians v Foresters. First division: Haileyburians v Haberdashers, Salopians v Wellingburians; Witleians v Harrovians; Wykehamists v Ardinians.

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Latymer; Clapham v Old Meadonians; Glyn v Old Tenisonians: Old Aloysians v Old Ignatians; Old Hamptonians v Old Isleworthians. Senior first division: Old Kingsburians v Chertsey, Old Salvatorians v Old Manorians; Old Suttonians v Shene; Old Tenisonians v Old Vaughanians; Old Tiffinians v Old Wilsonians

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Civil Service v Winchmore Hill; Crouch End v Nat West; Kew Assoc v West Wickham; Old Actonians v East Barnet OG; Old Esthameians v Carshalton; South Bank v Norsemen. Second division: Lensbury v Old Stationers; Lloyds v Old Latymerians; Midland v Old Parkonians; Old Bromleians v Old Parmiterians; Old Lyonians v Polytechnic. Third division: Broomfield v Old Westminster Cits; Cuaco v Southgate Cty. Ibis v Alleyn OB; Old Salesians v Brentham: Reigate Priory v Merton

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Hale End v St Mary's Coll; Nottsborough v Alberian; Old Grammarians v Old Owens; Southgate Co v Ulysses. Senior two: Hadley v City of London; Old Bealonians v Wandsworth; Old Woodhouseians v Old Finchleians; UCL Academicals v Honourable Artillery Co

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Leigh Miners Welfare v Hemel Hempstead (2.30); Lock Lane v Dudley Hill (2.30)

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Fourth round: Barrow Island v Egremont; Clayton v Bisons; Eastmoor v Thornhill, Ellenborough v West Hull; Haydock v Ackworth; Keighley Albion v Walnut Warriors; Middleton v Ovenden; Milford v Saddleworth; Mysons v Halton Simms Cross; Skirlaugh v Wigan St Pats; Walney Central v Mayfield; Wath Brow Hornets v Millom; West Bowling v Shaw Cross: Wigan St Judes v Upton and Frickley; Woolston v Fryston

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Durham (6.30), Fife v Newcastle (7.15); Milton Keynes v Nottingham (6.30); Sheffield v Humberside (7.0); Slough v Cardiff (6.30). First division: Blackburn v Manchester (6.0), Bracknell v Murrayfield (6.0); Guildford v Peterborough (6.0): Medway v Paisley (6.0): Solihull v Billingham (5.30); Swindon v Dumfries (6.30); Telford v Chelmsford (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Five nations' championship
Ireland v Wales
(at Lansdowne Road)
Scotland v England
(at Murrayfield)

A international
Italy v England
(at l'Aquila, 2.0)

Courage Clubs Championship
Third division
Rosslyn Park v Coventry (12.30)

CLUB MATCHES: Aspatria v Vale of Lune (2.30); Bradford and Bingley v Otley; Broughton Park v Widnes; Camberley v Reading (12.0); Cambridge Univ v Blackheath (12.0); Liverpool St Helens v Tynedale; London Irish v Saracens (12.30); London Welsh v Moseley (12.0); Orrell v Newcastle, Preston Grasshoppers v Fylde (12.30), Redruth v Camborne. Richmond v Harlequins; Sandal v Stockton, Sheffield v Leeds; Wasps v Dlok (Holl) (11.0); Watsonians v London Scottish (11.0); West Hartlepool v Wakefield. Cancelled: Birmingham Solihull v Sutton Coldfield; Weston-super-Mare v Worcester.

YOUTH INTERNATIONAL: Italy v England (Rovato, 2.30).

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Hull v Teddington (Orchard Park, 12.30); Old Loughtonians v Barford Tigers (Chigwell, 1.30). Second division: Richmond v Edgbaston (Teddington School, 2.30)

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v Oxford Hawks; Bournemouth v Beckenham; Chichester v Spencer; High Wycombe v Anchorians; Lewes v Wokingham; Lions v Gore Court; Old Walcountians v Fareham; Wimbledon v Old Kingstonians; Winchester v Maidenhead; Woking v Newbury. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Basingstoke; Camberley v Blandford; Cheam v London University; Dulwich v Oxted; Epsom v Andover; Old Edwardians v Petersfield, Old Whitgiftians v Old Cranleighans; Solent HC v Oxshott; Purley v Southampton; Walton and Weybridge v Old Mid-Whitgiftians. Kent/Sussex: Bexleyheath v Horsham; Bexley Invicta v Middleton; Blackheath v Marden Russets: Bognor v Herne Bay. Brighton v Old Bordenians, Crawley v Belvedere; Old Beccehamians v Sevenoaks; Tulse Hill v Mid Sussex; Tunbridge Wells v Old Williamsonians; Worthing v Old Holcombeians. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Ramgarhia; Bracknell v PHC Chiswick; City of Oxford v NPL; Eastcote v Milton Keynes: ETESSA v Sunbury; Harrow v Mill Hill; HCC v Marlow; Headington v Old Merchant Taylor's; Hendon v Hayes; Staines v Richings Park.

NORTH LEAGUE; First division: Ben Rhydding v Halifax; Harrogate v Warrington; Neston v Norton; Southport v Formby; Timperley v Sheffield Bankers.

DTZ DEBENHAM LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v John Player, Bloxwich v Hampton-in-Arden, Loughborough Students v Harbourne, North Notts v Bridgnorth, Nottingham v Khalsa

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Bracknell v Doncaster (2.0): Clifton v Hightown (12.30); Slough v Balsam Leicester (2.0), Sutton Canada Life v Ipswich (11.30). First division: Blueharts v Chelmsford (2.30), Bradford Swithenbank v Trojans (1.45), Exmouth v Canterbury (noon), Sunderland Bedans v Wimbledon (12.30). Second division: Aldridge v Reading (2.0); Loughborough v Woking (2.30), Olton v Sherwood (2.0): St Albans v Ealing

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bexleyheath v Sevenoaks: Harleston v Cambs C; Loughtonians v Welwyn GC; Saracens v Ipswich. Midlands: Bedford v Hampton, Crimson R v Pickwick, Kettering v Peverll, Leicester v Tamworth. North: Blackburn v Carlisle, Don Valley v Liverpool, Poynton v Newcastle, Sheffield v York. South: Camberley v Winchester, City of Portsmouth v Hampstead, Dulwich v Southampton, W Witney v Hendon, Worthing v Winchmore Hill. West: Colwall v Bournemouth, E Glos v Cheltenham, St Austell v Redland, Yate v Wimborne.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby v Thames Valley (8.0): Leicester v Birmingham (7.30); Manchester v Doncaster (7.30): Worthing v Newcastle (8.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Bury v Solent, Coventry v Plymouth, Mid-Sussex v Cardiff; Ware v Oldham and Rochdale. Women: First division: Ipswich v Northampton; London v Barking and Dagenham; Plymouth City v Thames Valley

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Poynton v Cheadle, Stockport v Cheadle Hulme: Timperley v Old Waconians. Mellor v Boardman and Eccles: Hulmeians v Sheffield Steelers

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hampstead v Hillcroft, London Univ v Hitchin; Purley v Beckenham.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: English women's indoor championships (Southampton)

BOXING: World Boxing Council super-middleweight championship: Nigel Benn (Ilford, holder) v Thulane Malinga (SA). World Boxing Association super-middleweight championship: Frankie Liles (US, holder) v Tim Littles (US) (Newcastle Arena)

TENNIS: Texaco women's challenger (Southampton).

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men: First division: Manchester Utd Salford v KLEA Leeds (4.30); Reebok Liverpool City v Newcastle (Staffs) (5.30), Polonia Ealing v Whitefield (7.0): Tooting Aquila v Solent (7.0); Sheffield v Wessex (6.30): Mizuno Malory Lewisham v Warwick Riga (2.30)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership
Liverpool v Aston Villa (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Grimsby Town v Sunderland
Ipswich Town v Leicester City
Oldham v Tranmere Rovers (2.55)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Hibernian v Rangers

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division (3.15): Derry v Bohemians, Dundalk v Cork. UCD v Shelbourne

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third round: Bath v Bromsgrove

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Millwall Lionesses v Arsenal: Wembley v Ilkeston

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Garswood St Helens v Bronte; RTM Newcastle v Tranmere. Southern division: Brighton and Hove v Leyton Orient; Oxford Utd v Ipswich; Three Bridges v Brentford.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

CIS UNDER-21 DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: London and SE v North (Imber Court): South West v Midlands (Bridgwater)

WOMEN'S HOME NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Ireland v Wales (Blackrock Coll) Scotland v England (Boroughmuir).

WOMEN'S A INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v England (Boroughmuir, 12.0)

WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford v Cambridge (Iffley Road, 2.30)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cannock v Teddington (Morris Ground, 2.30), Canterbury v Southgate (Polo Farm, 1.0); East Grinstead v Reading (Saint Hill, 2.0), Havant v Bournville (Havant Coll, 2.15), Hull v Trojans (Orchard Pk, 2.0): Indian Gymkhana v Barford Tigers (Osterley, 2.30); Old Loughtonians v St Albans (Chigwell, 1.30), Stourport v Guildford (Kidderminster Sch, 2.30). Surbiton v Hounslow (Sugden Rd, 2.30). Second division: Bromley v Beeston (Priory LC, Orpington, 1.30); Crostyx v Brooklands (Chigwell, 1.0); Doncaster v Slough (Bennetthorpe, 2.30). Firebrands v Hampstead and Wesminster (Clifton Coll, 12.30); Gloucester City v Oxford Univ (Plock Ct, 1.30); Harleston Magpies v City of Portsmouth (Shotford Heath, 2.0); Isca v Sheffield (Exeter Sch, 1.0). Olton and West Warwicks v Bluehearts (Grange Rd, Solihull, 2.0).

AEWHA CUP: Fourth round: Balsam Leicester v Old Loughtonians (12.30); Broxbourne v Olton (1.0); Doncaster v Hightown (Bennetthorpe, 12.15). Exeter v City of Portsmouth (1.30); Harleston Magpies v Crimson Ramblers (12.0). Leominster v Ipswich v Havant (12.0). Liverpool v Hendon Chelmsford (12.0). Lichfield (2.0): Maidenhead v Aldridge (1.45); North Stafts v Sevenoaks (2.15). Slough v Canterbury (2.0). Sunderland Bedans v Loughborough Students (12.20). Trojans v Clifton (2.15); Wimbledon v Woking (1.30): Winchester v Ealing (2.30); Winnington Park v Camberley (12.15).

AEWHA PLATE: Third round: Bath v Oxford Hawks, Bexleyheath v W Witney. Bishop's Stortford v Wigan. Cheam v Kettering. Cheshunt v Gloucester City. Eastcote v Nelson; Falmouth v Chiswick. Horsham v Dereham; Lillington Warwick v Atalanta; Neston v Pelicans; Newbury v Bognor Regis; Polytechnic v Morpeth; St Ives v Bridgnorth; Staines v St Austell; Wefton v Matlock Baileans, Worksop v Tunbridge Wells.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Sheffield (6.15); Durham v Humberside (6.30): Fife v Milton Keynes (6.30); Newcastle v Slough (6.30); Nottingham v Basingstoke (7.30). First division: Bracknell v Blackburn (5.15); Chelmsford v Manchester (6.30). Guildford v Paisley (5.15). Peterborough v Dumfries (5.30); Solihull v Murrayfield (7.0): Swindon v Billingham (6.0).

BASKETBALL

CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Final: London v Sheffield (Sheffield Arena, 4.30).

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Doncaster v Worthing (5.30); Leopards v Chester (5.0)

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Stockton v Nottingham. Women: First division: Nottingham v Tyne and Wear

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: British world championship cross country trials (Ashington).

BOWLS: English women's indoor championships (Southampton)

CYCLING: Eddie Soens RR, 50 miles (Aintree Racecourse, 10.0). Rockingham Forest RR, 60 miles (Middleton, 1.30).

ETON FIVES: University match (Eton, 11.30).

TENNIS: Texaco women's challenger (Southampton)

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Igls	5	30	worn	varied	closed	fair	3	23/2
(Mixed conditions with best snow at Stubai/Axamer)								
Kitzbühel	15	100	good	moguls	fair	snow	0	1/3
(Dusting of new snow on hard base; windy at altitude)								
Mayrhofen	0	60	fair	varied	closed	snow	-2	1/3
(Cloudy and windy but some good skiing available)								
Schladming	40	90	fair	varied	fair	snow	-4	1/3
(Tricky conditions with new snow on hard base)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	105	310	good	varied	good	fair	3	21/2
(Good skiing with spring snow developing low down)								
Avoriaz	170	210	good	varied	good	cloud	-2	23/2
(Still good skiing: some slush low down)								
Flaine	65	265	good	varied	worn	snow	0	1/3
(Pistes in Flaine Bowl still good: worn lower down)								
La Tania	65	105	good	crust	fair	cloud	-2	23/2
(Excellent skiing above Courchevel)								
Val Thorens	130	200	good	varied	worn	cloud	-5	22/2
(High runs good but some lower slopes rocky in places)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	140	360	good	crusty	good	fair	-1	23/2
(Good skiing on most pistes but some icy patches)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	45	150	fair	heavy	fair	snow	-1	1/3
(Light snowfalls with mixed visibility)								
Verbier	65	170	good	varied	good	snow	1	1/3
(Odd bare patch but generally very good skiing)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

Pick of the Austrian Peaks

Destination	Accommodation	Grade & Board*	Date	Airport	Price
Mayrhofen	Gastehaus Pramstaller	2T HB	17 Mar	Gatwick/Luton	£289
Söll	Hotel Tanne	2T HB	17 Mar	Gatwick/Luton	£296
Lermoos	Hotel Post Schlössl	4T HB	17 Mar	Gatwick	£351
Galtür	Hotel Fluchthorn	4T HB	17 Mar	Gatwick	£429
Söll	Gastehaus Edlinger	2T BB	24 Mar	Gatwick/Luton	£241
Alpbach	Hotel Post Dependance	2T HB	24 Mar	Gatwick/Luton	£282
Zell am See	Hotel Eder/Victoria	3T HB	24 Mar	Gatwick/Luton	£304
Waidring	Hotel Waidringerhof	4T HB	24 Mar	Gatwick/Luton	£326

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*Voted by travel agents in the annual Travel Weekly Globe Awards. Credit card payment surcharge applies. Prices based on two people sharing a twin room in a hotel. HB-Half Board, BB-Bed & Breakfast. Prices are guaranteed until 5pm Monday 04th March. All holidays are subject to availability. Thomson Tour Operations Limited. ATOL 2524, ABTA V5126.

Saturday portrait: Rob Wainwright, by David Hands, rugby correspondent

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

Peaceful passions that invigorate Scotland's doctor in the hothouse

Captaincy is a delicate art. Come to it early and, whatever you do, there will be mistakes of youth and inexperience. Will Carling knows that; indeed, he has had them tied round his neck like an albatross at times. The Scotland rugby union selectors have tended to go the other way and choose mature men.

Take only the handful in the past few years: Finlay Calder, granite of countenance, inherited the mantle at 30. David Sole was 27 when his quietly passionate approach prevailed, notably against England in 1990, and, when he retired, Gavin Hastings, at 31, stepped up.

Now that he has departed, Rob Wainwright's elevation at 30 appears almost preordained. This season has set him firmly on the rollercoaster of publicity that rugby union now attracts, and never more than in the past fortnight, which every Scot hopes will terminate at Murrayfield today with a victory over England to secure only the fourth grand slam in Scottish rugby history.

Yet you would never have guessed at Wainwright's destiny in his teenage years. Born in Perth, the fourth child (and the only boy) in a family of five, neither his school nor his university presumed that captaincy, or even an international career, lay ahead for the lanky youth with a passion for the countryside. Even now, his stature, 6ft 4in and 15st 7lb, does not make him a giant in his position of flank forward.

"He was a competent rugby player," Bill Crow, who coached the young Wainwright at Glenalmond College, said. No more, no less. Wainwright's father, Jim, a Blue as a back-row forward at Cambridge in 1956, was a teacher at Glenalmond and, for a period, warden (headmaster) of the school where his son captained the first XV in his third year. The Scotland schools selectors, though, did not come calling and he went to study medicine at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

The rugby authorities at university recall a somewhat startling introduction to a tall, pony-tailed young man with green hair — the result of an accident with a bottle of dye in what his family describe as his New Romantic phase — but Cambridge began the maturing process that has ultimately brought Wainwright the position that he cherishes.

Not only did he spend six years studying, but he also joined the Army, who sponsored his last three years at Cambridge. "It was," Wainwright recalled drily, "an inspired move." Had it not been for his Service career, Wainwright would have found it impossible to combine a first-class rugby career with general practice, though, with little more than a year of his present commission to run, the long-term future remains in doubt.

> 'I believe patriotism to be a very good thing provided it doesn't get out of hand'

Yet the portents of a late developer and for a ferocious competitor are there for those who seek them. All his sisters have found an outlet in sport: Holly won a rowing Blue at Cambridge, Sasha a half-Blue for cricket and hockey, Alison runs half-marathons and Jo, his youngest sister, is a physical training instructor in the Royal Navy. His mother, Jean, took to marathon running at the age of 50.

Cambridge soon discovered his qualities. When a knee injury hindered his rugby, Wainwright took up boxing and won a Blue at heavyweight, disposing of a somewhat larger opponent by skipping lightly about the ring in the first round and providing the knockout blow in the second. An athlete, too, he went on the dreaded, early-morning fartlek runs with Dr Mike Turner, the veteran cross country runner who managed the Great Britain team at the 1988 Olympic Games, and it was invariably Wainwright who was on Turner's shoulder.

"We have all been fairly athletic from an early age," Wainwright said, with the degree of understatement that has come to characterise his public utterances. Not for him the show of temperament, the verbal storm, but the laconic throwaway line and, in team gatherings, the gradual build-up before the release of emotion on the field.

Nobody should doubt Wainwright's fierce patriotism, even though much of his life has been spent in England. At Cambridge, playing with London Scottish and, latterly, West Hartlepool before the Royal Army Medical Corps moved him from Catterick Bridge to Edinburgh over the Christmas period, where he now combines GP work in a city practice with service at an army medical centre.

"There is more of a national identity with the Celtic nations," he said. "The chip on the shoulder, call it what you will. It can be unhealthy, but I believe patriotism to be a very good thing provided it doesn't get out of hand." Thus, Wainwright can be seen on the field, moving among his troops, a touch of the hand here, a quiet word there, keeping the motivation alive, the spirit strong.

He might have been a determining influence in the side before this season but for injury and the strong hand from which Scotland could pick at loose forward. Broken limbs and muscular strains have been the bane of his career and even this season he has been forced to visit the same clinic in Munich as Linford Christie and Colin Jackson, the international athletes, for manipulative treatment to his back.

He has played international rugby at lock, as well as in all three positions of the back row, but it is at blind-side flanker that he has come into his own.

"Rob's awareness from his own playing position is good," Ian McGeechan, who coached Scotland's 1990 grand-slam XV, said. "He's strong on the ball and leads by example, and that's exactly the sort of captain Scotland needed after Gavin Hastings. He works himself very hard, so as to be in every part of the field, and captains like that are like gold dust."

All Scotland, however, waits to see if Wainwright's tactical appreciation matches his drive and presence about the field. He admits that he is hardly aware of the scoreboard; decisions taken are those that appear to fit the situation. Thus, at a critical moment against Wales in Cardiff a fortnight ago, Wainwright called the back-row move that earned Gregor Townsend the decisive try, rather than opting for the dropped goal from close range.

"We knew the try could be scored and I thought that was the way to win the game, and get seven points rather than three," he said. Since Scotland won by two points, Wainwright was entirely justified, yet, in the heat of victory, his frank assessment of Scotland's difficulties and his appreciation of a gallant effort by Wales brought immense credit upon both him and his team.

The image is further enhanced by Wainwright's affection for the countryside. Cameras will invariably catch him with his dogs, or his hawk (though that has recently flown away), or with his fishing rod. "I love the natural world," he said — one that he looks forward to sharing with his wife, Romayne, and his children, Douglas, 19 months, and Natasha, six months.

First, however, comes the unnatural hothouse of international sport. The Wainwright family will be out in force today, his parents returning from their new home in Kenya to see if their own late developer can set the seal on a Scotland season that began in doubt but may end in glory.

Britain offer threat to Kenyan dominance

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

DO THE Kenyans have another victory in them? We are not talking cricket here. We return now to their proudest sport: cross country.

Kenya will be seeking their eleventh successive men's world team title in South Africa three weeks from now. There is about as much chance of them losing to Great Britain as ... well, Kenya beating West Indies at cricket.

However, listening to David Clarke, the Great Britain team manager, one can almost visualise nine British tracksuits on the top of the rostrum in Stellenbosch on March 23. If not at the top, somewhere near.

As the British trials at Stakeford, Northumberland, tomorrow should indicate, Clarke has plenty of batting. "The Kenyans always seem to be unbeatable, but our first three — Andrew Pearson, Keith Cullen and Jon Brown — are not in awe of them," he said. "Rob Denmark, Adrian Passey, Gary Staines, John Nuttall and Jon Solly have all run well against the Kenyans."

That still leaves half a dozen others, notably Chris Sweeney, Martin Jones and Tim Dickinson, each anxious to be part of the strongest British team since bronze medals were won in 1992. "There is absolutely no reason why they should not get medals," Clarke said.

Among leading Britons, only Paul Evans, Eamonn Martin and Spencer Duval have ruled themselves out. The first seven tomorrow are guaranteed places, with two chosen by the selectors. Given that Brown will not be running the trial, it is to be hoped that Pearson and Cullen do not have off-days and finish outside the top seven. Then, either Brown or Cullen would have to be omitted which, on form last weekend, would be British foot-shooting at its most painful.

Why Brown or Cullen and not Pearson? So much margin for error has Pearson built up with his form this season, including a European bronze individual medal, that he could finish on Monday and still expect to be picked. Assuming the worst does not happen, the selectors can slot Brown in knowing that he is the talk of road racing after his victory in the Gasparilla 15-kilometre race in Florida last Saturday.

Pearson: fine season

The field included Armando Quintanilla, a 27min 18sec 10,000 metres runner from Mexico, and enough leading Kenyans to form a cricket team — Yobes Ondieki, the former 10,000 metres world record holder, and Lameck Aguta, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, among them. The win ensured Brown's commitment to South Africa because, before that run, he had decided against competing in the world cross country championship.

Having gone to Boulder, Colorado, for warm-weather and altitude training, his plans were spoilt by a fortnight's snow. "I was not able to train as I wanted, so I decided not to do the world cross," Brown said, "but last week showed I was not far behind in my training." He was reconsidering when Clarke called, emphasised the team's medal potential, and made up his mind for him.

Cullen aggravated an Achilles tendon injury while finishing second in Diekirch, Luxembourg, last Sunday, but has been cleared to run. Paula Radcliffe was an injured British runner-up in Diekirch, too, hurting a knee, but is not risking it tomorrow.

Radcliffe, the 1992 junior world champion, is Britain's only hope for an individual medal. Her withdrawal from the trial is "precautionary", according to Alex Stanton, her coach. The first four women are guaranteed places in the team of six. Radcliffe can expect a discretionary slot.

Benn intends to leave no doubts

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

NIGEL BENN should underline his status as the world's second-best super-middleweight when he defends his World Boxing Council (WBC) title against Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, in Newcastle tonight.

The champion, who had a controversial win over Malinga, wants to leave no doubts about the outcome this time. Indeed, since Benn wants to be seen as a realistic contender for the No 1 super-middleweight position, held by Roy Jones, the International Boxing Federation champion, it would not be surprising if he disposes of Malinga inside the distance.

Jones, who is the only man to have stopped the South African — who has had considerable experience in a career spanning 14 years and 49 contests — knocked him out in six rounds. If Benn can improve on that, his supporters will be clamouring for a match against Jones, even though, at the moment, it seems impossible to arrange because rival television companies are involved.

Not only does Malinga say that Jones would stop Benn in two rounds, but also he is convinced that Benn will not get past him to further his case for a bout with Jones. Malinga promises to stop Benn in five rounds.

Of all the disputed decisions that Malinga has received, the one against Benn in 1992 angers him the most. "That was a disgrace," Malinga said. "I beat him easily, and he knows it. That's why it has taken him four years to give me the return that he promised after our first fight. He looks a shot fighter. I can't see any way that he can beat me."

Malinga did have Benn in trouble around the fifth round, and no doubt he thinks that he can hurt him again; but, while Benn has become a far better and wiser boxer since that meeting, Malinga appears to have lost much of his old resilience.

He did not impress against Trevor Ambrose, a journeyman from Leicester, but Malinga claims that that performance was because he had been out of the ring for five months. He says that he is much sharper now because he has trained harder than before and is motivated.

Malinga is really a light-heavyweight and if, in reducing, he has not lost his natural strength advantage, he could pose serious problems for Benn the further the bout goes. Benn has always had to work against bigger men like Lenzie Morgan, Mauro Galvano, Nicky Piper and Malinga.

Benn, who has been training with Frank Bruno in Tenerife, said about his first contest with Malinga: "I thought I nicked the fight for the first six rounds and it was close after that, but look where I am now and where he's gone from there. I've trained really hard for this fight because I know he believes he can beat me. This time I intend to knock him out, big time."

Cup final separates the twin towers of basketball

By Nicholas Harling

HOWEVER much Roger Huggins and Andy Gardiner have in common, which is a great deal, one thing is for sure — the smile of recognition and the fleeting touch of hands with which the 28-year-old basketball opponents will start the National Cup final tomorrow will be forgotten once the tie starts at the Sheffield Arena.

"At some part of the game, we'll be banging together," Gardiner said. Since their teenage years, when their friendship was formed, the careers of the two players have followed virtually the same path, to the point that their bond is now almost the telepathic one of twins.

The scorers of 11 points apiece for England against Russia on Wednesday, they both want to improve on those modest tallies in front of an expected 7,000 crowd.

Whatever happens between London Towers, Gardiner's club, and Sheffield Sharks, the team that Huggins represents, the two players will have a drink together afterwards.

It has been ever thus, since they first played for East London Royals, Bracknell Pirates and travelled to Hawaii to study at Hawaii Lower College and Hawaii Pacific University, where they gained their degrees in social sciences and met the ladies in their lives.

Gardiner, the best man at Huggins's wedding to Heidi 14 months ago, said: "We're as close as brothers, but that friendship will go out of the window on Sunday. I'm excited to be playing against Roger in such a big game and I want him to have a good game, but, at the same time, I want him to miss a couple of shots."

Huggins said: "I want Andy to play well, but not too well. You've got to consider the bragging rights over the summer. I don't want him to be going back to Hawaii, with me, saying: 'We beat you this and that'." They return to Hawaii each year, mainly to spend time with the families that hosted them during their studies.

If there is a discrepancy, it is in their heights. Huggins is 6ft 7½in, an inch taller than Gardiner, who has also yet to match his friend's feats in being named player of the year and captaining his country, which was Huggins's dubious privilege for the first time on Wednesday, when England fell to their crushing defeat in Moscow.

Beaten Anglo-Brazilians have excuses off expat

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

RECENT remarks in this column on the South American cricket championship could only be followed by a letter from D. K. Haskell, the British Ambassador to Brazil. He said: "My son, Paul, aged 19, who played for Brazil in the championship, is a little hurt by the description of himself as an 'ageing expat'. On the other hand, he is not particularly keen to recall the event, as Brazil lost to Argentina, Chile and Peru and ended up with the wooden spoon. Paul was born in Chile and has played for Peru, together with his brother Jonathan and myself. Has any other national team ever contained two brothers *and* their father?"

A little linguistic light on the competition was shed by Charles Fellows-Smith, who wrote to tell me that he was one of the "ageing expats" who played for Peru. The Argentinians had no problem with "batsman" *(bateador)* or "bowler" *(boleador)*, but found "fall of last wicket" more difficult. This works out in splendid "Spanglish" as "*caido ultimo wicket*".

Fine mess

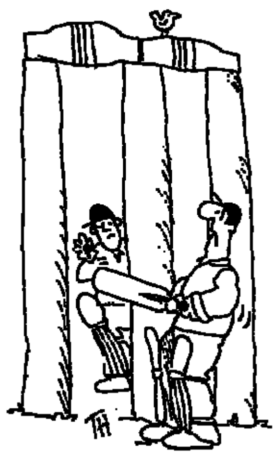
All British sports stars are obsessed by two ambitions:
1. To earn as much money as American sports stars, and
2. To get the media off their backs.

As Michael Atherton put it at the recent notorious press conference: "Will someone remove this buffoon?" Well, if sports stars want to learn from the United States, they should realise that, in the American view at least, these twin ambitions are incompatible. Albert Belle, one of the top baseball sluggers, is part of the I'm-so-great-I-hate-the-media tendency. At the World Series last year, playing for Cleveland Indians, he screamed abuse at Hannah Storm, the NBC television reporter. He has just been fined $50,000. He is refusing to pay, and faces suspension.

Moving target

How about making bigger, fatter stumps so that the bowler has more to aim at?

This dire scenario is taking place in baseball, where the target is essentially Platonic, existing only in the perfection of the umpiring mind. Even as pitchers flex their rotator cuffs in spring training, they aim at a newer and larger strike zone. The old strike zone started at midway between armpit and belt, and went to the top of the kneecap. Now, it goes further: right down to the bottom of the kneecap. The idea is to encourage batters to have a go at the ball, rather than waiting for balls — misses — that entitle them to walk to first base.



Out for count

The other week, this column reported the mid-life crisis of Nino Benvenuti, the former world middleweight boxing champion, who walked out on his life to go and care for lepers in Madras. Two months on, he is back. "I must thank the lepers for what they have given to my life," he said. "The experience has brought me closer to God." Benvenuti is now seeking election as a member of the National Alliance, which is headed by the notorious Gianfranco Fini, a politician whose principal activity is the constant refrain: "I am not a neo-fascist." The lady doth protest too much.

Passing the hat

Greg Norman, whose ambition is to take golfing clothes into a new dimension of hideousness, is seeking, as ever, to achieve this next-to-impossible task by means of self-publicity. His latest stunt has been to try to play a round with Sir Donald Bradman, the greatest batsman that ever drew breath. However, Bradman turned him down, perhaps in fear that he would be asked to wear one of Norman's ghastly hats. The Melbourne newspaper, *Sunday Age*, commented: "Norman should have tried to woo Bradman with appearance-money. It works for him."

Biter bit

Raymond Illingworth's style of leadership, as England cricket manager, has long included overt and covert sniping at his captain. I wonder what Illingworth thinks about people who snipe at him. Sir Colin Cowdrey, at the launch of Mike Gatting's testimonial year, said in the course of a speech that "sixty-year-olds are out of touch with modern-day cricket" — and he meant it to sting, by God.

Famous five

Get writing. The hunt for *Wisden's* five cricketers of the year is up and running. Predict the editor's selection of the players who did most to enhance the 1995 English season, and send the list to me — remembering, of course, that no player can win the honour twice. The five closest to the editor's selection win a copy of *Wisden 1996*. Closing date is March 9, so get moving.

هكذا من الأصل

Optimism in short supply among struggling rivals

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN DUBLIN

FOR all the talk of style and entertainment, it is a simple victory that Ireland and Wales long for this afternoon at Lansdowne Road. This would give them some breathing space to contemplate their progress, which another failure might delay. Both teams need a boost.

Ireland must conclude, if they had ever been persuaded otherwise, that the five nations' championship is a severe and heartless playground. In January, there was a spirit that encouraged predictions of not only a revival, but also an outside chance that they might challenge for the championship, even if this was born more from the weaknesses and doubts that were perceived among the rival nations.

There was so much that was open to question: with Scotland, who had been given an awkward couple of tests before the championship began, and with the coaching and playing personnel changes of France. In all this restlessness, Ireland might make capital, but this optimism was largely inspired among outsiders, who had drawn too many hasty conclusions from Ireland's resounding 40-point victory against Fiji and a more modest one against the United States in rain-soaked Atlanta.

The resurgence failed to materialise, first against Scotland, and most emphatically when they lost by a record score in Paris, where they were further discredited by the actions of Peter Clohessy.

Ireland must ponder whether their fortunes would have been different had their confidence been bolstered by success in their opening game, which they must have thought then — and regret even more so now — that they could have won. Little separated them, yet Scotland are challenging for the ultimate prize today, Ireland quite the opposite. On such slender threads do the accomplishments of a team hang.

Wales, for their part, are aware of this, too. The difference, however narrow, in the final score is magnified for the winners and losers as they anticipate the next encounter. Ireland and Wales are feeling the weight of the psychological baggage of failure.

Wales know that, for all the enterprise shown by Robert Howley, the fleet-footed intrusions of Justin Thomas, the silky passes of Leigh Davies and the voracious appetite of Gwyn Jones — all on show against Scotland — as well as the opportunities that they created, they found no vindication in the scoreboard. They have found the style, but not yet the manner of winning with it. The first part of the jigsaw is in place, but the victory that still eludes them is necessary if a fuller picture is to be achieved. The pressure that is beginning to burden them must not, at any cost, make them desperate.

Wales keep an unchanged team for the third consecutive match, whereas Ireland have made ten changes since their first match of the tournament. Rawness and inexperience appertain to both. There is youthfulness in the Wales team and sureness in Ireland's composition, which adds uncertainty to the prospect.

Their last confrontation saw Ireland win 24-23 in Johannesburg in the World Cup, but Wales can point to four victories in their past five fixtures in Dublin. In addition, for what it is worth, the loser of this match has ended bottom of the championship in seven of the past eight seasons.

According to Terry Cobner, the former Wales flanker and captain, and now the coaching director for the Welsh Rugby Union, Wales must continue in the manner of their previous matches.

"I realise that a victory sooner rather than later is necessary, but, in our overall plans, it should not be interpreted as earth-shattering," he said. Cobner is aware of the need for patience, to enable the team to mature, but equally understands that continued failure could depress the team's enthusiasm.

Control will be necessary against an Ireland team that will need to recover credibility after Paris. There must be fire in the belly: the "Irishness", as Barry McGann, the former Ireland stand-off half, described it, needs to be restored to the team. This afternoon, before their own kind and after the bitter sting of Parc des Princes, is the time to show it.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DUBLIN

IRELAND		WALES
S Mason (Orrell)	15	W J L Thomas (Llanelli)
S P Geoghegan (Bath)	14	I C Evans (Llanelli)
J C Bell (Northampton)	13	L B Davies (Neath)
M J Field (Malone)	12	N G Davies (Llanelli)
N K P J Woods (Blackrock Coll)	11	W T Proctor (Llanelli)
D G Humphreys (London Irish)	10	A C Thomas (Bristol)
*N A Hogan (Terenure College)	9	R Howley (Bridgend)
N J Popplewell (Newcastle)	1	A L P Lewis (Cardiff)
A T H Clarke (Northampton)	2	*J M Humphreys (Cardiff)
P S Wallace (Blackrock College)	3	J D Davies (Neath)
D S Corkery (Cork Constitution)	6	E W Lewis (Cardiff)
G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution)	4	G O Llewellyn (Neath)
J W Davidson (Dungannon)	5	D Jones (Cardiff)
W D McBride (Malone)	7	R G Jones (Llanelli)
V C P Costello (St Mary's College)	8	H T Taylor (Cardiff)

Referee: D Mene (France)

* denotes captain

Replacements: 16 K P McQuilkin (Bective Rangers), 17 P A Burke (Cork Constitution), 18 C Saverimutto (Sale), 19 P S Johns (Dungannon), 20 H D Hurley (Old Wesley), 21 T J Kingston (Dolphin).

Replacements: 16 G Thomas (Bridgend), 17 N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), 18 A P Moore (Cardiff), 19 S Williams (Neath), 20 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenkins (Swansea).

New lighthouse points way for England

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

David Hands meets the new boy hoping to deny Scotland's lineout jumpers

IAN STEWART

Archer receives a few helping hands during a lineout training session yesterday

Manned lighthouses around the country are being gradually phased out and Martin Bayfield doubtless has sympathy with the keepers. Bayfield, English rugby's own 6ft 10in lighthouse over the past four years, makes way for another today after 31 caps and an established place in the international hierarchy of lock forwards.

The greater the reputation of the player discarded, the greater the obligation upon the one who succeeds. Nobody need remind Garath Archer of the demanding role that faces him at Murrayfield this afternoon, when he wins his first England cap amid the clamour and hubbub of Scotland's thrust towards the grand slam.

Yet the pleasure that he will take from the occasion is intense — not only the personal satisfaction of an ambition achieved, but also professional pride since Archer is in the process of leaving the Army to become a full-time rugby player. "I have been dreaming about this game ever since I was selected," he said.

Not that Archer believed initially that he had been chosen. Parked on the motorway alongside a punctured tyre on the way to squad training at Marlow, he thought that his leg was being pulled when encouraged to move himself as swiftly as possible because the team could not train without him.

Yet precocity has always marked his rugby career. He was born in South Shields in 1974, three years before the apogee of his father's playing career: Stewart Archer played for Westoe and Gosforth, for whom he appeared on the wing in the 1977 Cup Final, scoring a try in the victory over Waterloo.

The son followed the father's footsteps, pausing only to fit in a spell with Durham City, where Craig, his younger brother, plays flanker. Garath attended Durham School from where he won representative honours, a year young on each occasion, for England's 16 and 18 Group sides. He also claimed the dubious distinction of being sent off as a 15-year-old, and was dismissed again playing for Newcastle Gosforth against Bristol in a league match two years ago.

So the playing talent has long been apparent, together with the restless energy which Archer — who has received two yellow warning cards this season — has yet to curb completely. The England hierarchy, however, has faith and, only yesterday, Mike Slemen, who has coached him for the North and England A, extolled his virtues.

"I was told he might be a problem when the North toured in South Africa, but he was no problem at all," Slemen said. "He has tremendous athletic ability, great physical strength and I think he stays very cool. He doesn't stand back from anybody, but his approach is very positive, he works hard, he has good hands and he will run until he drops."

Archer's name remained firmly in selectorial notebooks when he left school. He appeared in England's colts and under-21 teams and, last year, made the first of ten appearances for England A alongside Simon Shaw. That has been one of the great ironies of English rugby: Shaw was earmarked as an international prospect from the moment he made an impact in England's midweek team on tour in South Africa in 1994.

Archer moved from Newcastle Gosforth to Bristol last spring to join him, save that, by then, Shaw had been sidelined by a knee injury. The plan was for Archer, 6ft 6in and 18st 8lb, to be Bristol's front jumper with Shaw in the middle, but the injury forced Archer into the position that he now occupies for England.

The England lineout in the championship this season has been lamentably inefficient and the management, believing that Bayfield could not throw off a technical fault in his jumping that which gave his opponents an advantage, decided to give Archer his chance in harness with Mark Regan, his club hooker. "It's a great boost to have my clubmate and good friend in the side," Archer said.

"We have established a great understanding and hardly lost any of our own ball. Now, I have to focus on the England game. I want to make the position my own."

Loughtonians seek leading edge

OLD LOUGHTONIANS are aiming to get back among the leaders in club hockey with six points available from two National League matches at Chigwell (Sydney Friskin writes). They play Barford Tigers today and St Albans tomorrow. They can expect tough opposition from the Tigers, who beat Teddington last week., but could find the going easier against relegation-threatened St Albans.

Reading face a severe test at East Grinstead and must win to keep their chances alive after a 2-2 draw with Cannock last week. East Grinstead could have a big say in the destiny of the first division title. Having beaten Old Loughtonians 3-2, they play Southgate next week.

Both Southgate, the leaders, and Cannock, in second place, have difficult obstacles to surmount, the latter at home to Teddington and the former away to Canterbury. Guildford, in third place, are ready to capitalise in their match at Stourport.

☐ Hightown, the leaders of the women's league, re-enter the league fray this weekend for the first time since December, only to discover that they must travel to Clifton and then trek all the way back to Doncaster tomorrow for an AEWHA Cup tie.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Street secures second world downhill prize

PICABO STREET, of the United States, clinched her second consecutive World Cup downhill championship when she finished second in a sprint downhill race in Narvik, Norway yesterday. She has an unbeatable lead in the standings with one downhill race left in the season. Street also the women's downhill world championship in Sierra Nevada, Spain, last month — the first American to do so.

Warwara Zelenskaja gave Russia its first women's World Cup victory when she won the two-heat race yesterday. Heidi Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, finished third.

Hylton bows out

ATHLETICS: Mark Hylton yesterday decided not to risk a groin strain and withdrew from the 400 metres place in the Great Britain team for the European indoor championships in Stockholm next week. Hylton, 19, the European junior champion, follows Melanie Neef and Tony Jarrett out of the team named on Wednesday. Kent Ulyatt replaces him.

Unstoppable Catling

RUGBY UNION: A flurry of points in the final quarter earned England a 44-9 win in the student international with Scotland at Inverleith yesterday. Chris Catling, the Exeter full back, wrought much of the damage against a Scotland side playing together for the first time this season. Catling and Fraser Waters each scored two tries with a fifth falling to Matt Allen.

Double success for Hall

BADMINTON: cf702Darren Hall, of Essex, scored two of the best wins of his career by beating Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen, the bronze medal-winner at the Olympic Games and the world championships, and then Hermawan Susanto, the 1993 world championship runner-up, to reach the semi-finals of the Swiss Open in Basle yesterday.

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Parrott powers into semi-final

JOHN PARROTT safely reached the semi-finals of the European Open snooker tournament for the sixth time in eight years when he convincingly defeated Dave Harold 5-1 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta, Malta, yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Parrott, from Liverpool, the winner of the inaugural tournament in Deauveille in 1989 and again a year later in Lyons, this afternoon meets Joe Swail for a place in the best-of-17-frame final tomorrow, with a first prize of £60,000 at stake.

Parrott, looking for his second world ranking event triumph of the season, after winning the Thailand Classic in October, shared the first two frames before compiling a decisive 59 break in the third, added the next two and finished strongly with a run of 77.

Parrott, a reliable overseas campaigner, having won titles in eight countries, attributes his relaxed frame of mind to the presence on this trip of Karen, his wife, and infant son, Josh.

"I have heard people on the circuit say you should never bring your family to work, but I don't believe that," Parrott said. "I am not aching for them like I do most of the time when I am away."

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WINNING MARGIN

SCOTLAND	WINNING MARGIN	ENGLAND
7/2	1-5 pts	7/2
4/1	6-10 pts	4/1
8/1	11-15 pts	8/1
18/1	16-20 pts	16/1
33/1	21-25 pts	28/1

14/1 Drawn match

WINNING MARGIN

IRELAND	WINNING MARGIN	WALES
7/2	1-5 pts	7/2
6/1	6-10 pts	4/1
12/1	11-15 pts	6/1
25/1	16-20 pts	10/1
50/1	21-25 pts	20/1

16/1 Drawn match

FIRST TRYSCORER

10/1	R. Underwood	14/1	Carling
11/1	Dods	14/1	Catt
11/1	Guscott	14/1	Hastings
11/1	Joiner	14/1	Jardine
12/1	Sleightholme	16/1	Shepherd

Penalty tries do not count.

FIRST TRYSCORER

8/1	I. Evans	11/1	N. Davies
9/1	Proctor	14/1	Bell
10/1	Geoghegan	14/1	Field
10/1	Woods	14/1	J. Thomas
11/1	L. Davies	16/1	A. Thomas

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SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

Return of Richards can tilt balance of power away from expectant Murrayfield

English resolve may deny Scots

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF SPORT were a natural progression of events, then Scotland could be reasonably assured that, by tonight, rugby union's grand slam, the five nations' title, the Calcutta Cup — the whole shooting match — will be nestling safely in the vaults at Murrayfield — as safely as the predicted £8 million spin-off to the local economy from the 20,000 supporters arriving in Edinburgh.

Only England stand in the way of the Scottish dream of a fourth grand slam to set aside those of 1925, 1984 and 1990. Only England? Only the team that, a year ago, won the grand slam itself by beating Scotland, and which has lost only once to the Scots in the past ten meetings. Only the team that, according to Jim Telfer, seldom appears over the horizon in anything but substantial strength.

Telfer, the Scottish Rugby Union's director of coaching, has drummed into his players that England's perceived fallibility means nothing. As an addendum, he will have mentioned that three out of four championship wins will not earn a place in the history books, not if England or, more likely, France, go galloping past to win the title on points difference. Yet those wins have served to build a great well of confidence in team and supporters alike. From the moment that Scotland won a potentially difficult opening game in Dublin, their momentum has been bubbling.

"We got off to a good start on what has proved to be our best-balanced display," Telfer said yesterday. "To win your first game, away, is a tremendous advantage, and that may be what England have suffered from."

Scotland have been living proof of the power of positive thinking, never more so than in beating Wales after a match in which they retreated, tactically, from the invention that characterised their earlier games against Ireland and France. For that reason alone, their numerous well-wishers believe that they can earn and deserve victory in the Royal Bank international today.

Should they win, Bryan Redpath and Gregor Townsend, the half backs, will take much of the credit. Redpath has recovered fully from his bruised back and will fulfil both his role at scrum half and as the eyes and ears of Rob Wainwright, the captain. Wainwright's is leadership by example. Redpath's the sure hand on the tactical tiller, leaving Townsend to set opponents, and sometimes his own players, on their heels.

Yet will England let them do so? There has been a lack of direction this season, but, when they felt that there was no alternative to a simple game-plan — against France in Paris — England came very close to overcoming their inexperience, most notably at half back. What they have done once, away, they can do again.

Scotland have taken over the role from Wales as England's nemesis during the past decade, thanks in part to two heavy defeats at Murrayfield in the early 1980s and the 1990 grand-slam decider. If England do not stiffen the sinews for a meeting with Scotland, they will not do so against any northern-hemisphere opponents.

There is a deceptive confidence about the squad, deceptive because, thus far, it has not always been justified by events. Yet again we are given to understand that the preparation has been first-class and that the squad, to a man, believes that it came close to breaking its bonds against Wales at Twickenham.

"I believe this side has a huge amount to offer," Will Carling, the captain, said. "It's a new, young side. You wouldn't expect it to play to its potential yet." What any England supporter would expect, however, is a degree of efficiency that has been lacking this turbulent season, a tactical approach that maximises the strengths of the squad and does not overreach its capabilities. That is why Dean Richards, the most down-to-earth of players, is back.

Richards has a feel for the game that Ben Clarke, the player he supplants as pack leader, has yet to develop. Nor does his presence necessarily dictate that England play a slow, plodding game. Richards, it may be remembered, took part in England's outstanding display against Australia at Twickenham in 1988, and in that distinguished effort against South Africa in Pretoria in 1994. He was there for the integrated performance against Western Samoa during the World Cup last year, which Jack Rowell regards as England's best display under him.

What Richards represents is control, the authority that may assist Matt Dawson to play in the style that won him selection in the first place — a style that asks far more questions of a defence than he has yet demonstrated. England this season have asked notably few questions, save when their centres found ways through the Wales midfield. They have had a month now to set a new examination paper.

If this match is to be won anywhere, it will be in the mind. Scotland have created a feel-good factor, while England have appeared to operate in a mental fog. Today, England could find sufficient clarity to deny Scotland the prizes that their achievements so richly deserve.

Magnus Linklater, page 22
Wainwright portrait, page 50
Archer takes bow, page 51
Irish ponder, page 51

KEVIN COOMBS

The Scotland players, from left, Peters, Campbell, Wainwright and Jardine, have a spring in their step during training yesterday

FIVE NATIONS'

CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	3	0	0	51	38	6
France	3	2	0	1	74	41	4
England	2	1	0	1	33	30	2
Wales	2	0	0	2	29	37	0
Ireland	2	0	0	2	20	61	0

RESULTS: France 15 England 12, Ireland 10 Scotland 16, England 21 Wales 15, Scotland 19 France 14, France 45 Ireland 10, Wales 14 Scotland 16

REMAINING MATCHES: Today: Ireland v Wales, Scotland v England Mar 16: England v Ireland, Wales v France.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT MURRAYFIELD

SCOTLAND		ENGLAND
R J S Shepherd (Melrose)	15	M J Catt (Bath)
C A Joiner (Melrose)	14	J M Sleightholme (Bath)
S Hastings (Watsonians)	13	*W D C Carling (Harlequins)
I C Jardine (Stirling County)	12	J C Guscott (Bath)
M Dods (Northampton)	11	R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)
G P J Townsend (Northampton)	10	P J Grayson (Northampton)
B W Redpath (Melrose)	9	M J S Dawson (Northampton)
D I W Hilton (Bath)	1	G C Rowntree (Leicester)
K D McKenzie (Stirling County)	2	M P Regan (Bristol)
P H Wright (Boroughmuir)	3	J Leonard (Harlequins)
*R I Wainwright (Watsonians)	6	B B Clarke (Bath)
S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)	4	M O Johnson (Leicester)
G W Weir (Newcastle)	5	G S Archer (Bristol)
I R Smith (Gloucester)	7	L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)
E W Peters (Bath)	8	D Richards (Leicester)

Referee: W D Bevan (Wales)

* denotes captain

Replacements: 16 I C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), 17 C M Chalmers (Melrose), 18 G Armstrong (Newcastle), 19 S Murray (Edinburgh Acad), 20 A P Burnell (London Scottish), 21 J A Hay (Hawick).

Replacements: 16 J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 K P P Bracken (Bristol), 19 V E Ubogu (Bath), 20 R G R Dawe (Bath), 21 T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army).

Dallaglio needs to put shackles on Townsend

Rob Andrew highlights the problems facing England in tackling all-conquering Scots

If this season has demonstrated anything, it is Scotland's ability to make the most — more than the most — of what they have. To a degree, the quality of their team has been predictable, but the unknown quantity was the performance of Gregor Townsend at stand-off half.

Townsend has brought a new dimension to Scotland's play and has been responsible for much of their success, notably in Ireland and against France. Therein lies England's problem today, because Townsend and Bryan Redpath, at half back, have been the linchpins of Scotland's season and that is where they must be stopped.

It will be fascinating to see how England cope with this problem at Murrayfield. Wales showed the way by squeezing the Scotland halves and, if England can put on an even greater degree of pressure, then we may see a different Scotland. They can do this in an individual and a collective sense. I would tell Lawrence Dallaglio to mark Townsend very tightly, almost to the extent of forgetting anything else. Dallaglio has bags of pace and he can hound Townsend, perhaps stopping him behind the Scotland forwards and giving England a platform.

Even before the ball reaches Townsend, England can do a lot. They must spoil Scotland's lineout possession to start with; Scotland are adept at getting second or third touch on lineout ball and England must reduce that, or get through the lineout to ensure that Redpath gets as little clean possession as possible.

They must also attack Scotland on their own scrum ball, by driving or wheeling, anything to put Redpath on his heels and reduce the possibility of back-row moves. England will be well aware that Redpath is so small and quick on the break that he can almost run under the tackles of big opponents and, if he does get over the gain-line, then Scotland are into their rucking game, the ball will be in Townsend's hands and anything can happen.

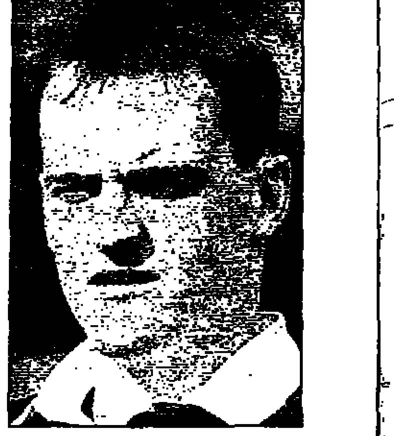
At the same time, England must offer a physical game, just as we always did against any France side that included Pierre Berbizier at scrum half. We would be in Berbizier's face all the time, putting him off his game and, this afternoon, Scotland must be made aware that, whichever alley they choose to run in, they will hit a white brick wall.

This can be done only through good organisation. Now that Dean Richards has returned to the team, he will be doing a lot of talking. Dallaglio thinks well on his feet, anyway, and Ben Clarke has enough experience to know what he is about. I would never leave Richards out, so long as you accept that he is not a Zinzan Brooke or a Tim Gavin; he is Dean Richards with all his individual strengths around which you can build. He also has to urge others to concentrate on what needs to be done.

This mental element has been part of the England problem this season. International rugby demands real concentration for 80 minutes and one or two players have not been able to sustain that. There is no excuse for the older players not to do so, but there is a clutch of newcomers still coming to terms with life in the fast lane. You should come off an international field mentally exhausted and that has not been happening.

Moreover, England, for the first time that I can remember, are underdogs, so the Scots have more to lose. They know that they stand on the verge of rugby history.

If England make a good start, maybe one or two Scots will become anxious. There was an element of that for England in 1990, when both countries were going for the grand slam and Scotland, in the lead, were defending heroically. You become so aware of the clock running down, the need to score and the light going out on the dream.



Townsend: linchpin

Keegan stands up for Asprilla

By Peter Ball

NEWCASTLE United are not going to punish Faustino Asprilla, their new £6.7 million signing, they are going to defend him against all charges. As the club broke its diplomatic silence yesterday on the elbowing incident involving Asprilla, their Colombia striker, and Keith Curle at Maine Road a week ago, Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, announced: "The club view is that it is an FA matter now and we are in their hands.

"We are not going to punish him because you saw what happened with Manchester United and Cantona. They punished him and then the FA added further punishment on top — so we'll leave it to them."

Keegan made no attempt to condone Asprilla's flying elbow during the game or his gesture with his head at Curle, the Manchester City captain, after the final whistle, but turned the case into an attack on "trial by television".

"I shall stick by him; if I don't defend him, who will?" Keegan said. "I don't think you can defend the two incidents as such, but, if we are going to have trial by television, the FA are going down a very, very dangerous road.

"The BBC have highlighted two incidents concerned with one player. There was one other incident, at least as serious, of which no mention has been made. We will go down to Lancaster Gate with the video of the whole match and show them things that happened which were at least as serious."

Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, has been censured by the FA for remarks made about referees. Wright, interviewed on the Arsenal clubcall line, described them as "incompetent" and said of David Elleray, one of the country's most senior officials: "He's not there to be a little Hitler."

Steve Claridge, the Birmingham City striker, yesterday completed his protracted £1 million transfer to Leicester City. Birmingham, who yesterday spent £500,000 of the fee on Paul Devlin and Andy Legg, of Notts County, stand to collect a further £100,000 if Leicester are promoted and a similar sum when Claridge has made 50 appearances.

Master Gullit, page 47
Draper's rise, page 47

Maguire: will miss Cheltenham Festival

Maguire rues unlucky break

ADRIAN MAGUIRE and Norman Williamson, two of the brightest talents in National Hunt racing, were yesterday ruled out of the Cheltenham Festival, which starts a week on Tuesday, after sustaining injuries in separate incidents.

Maguire broke his right collarbone in a fall at Newbury; Williamson suffered a further dislocation to his right shoulder when riding out on the Lambourn gallops. These are bitter setbacks for both men, who have been through a difficult 12 months.

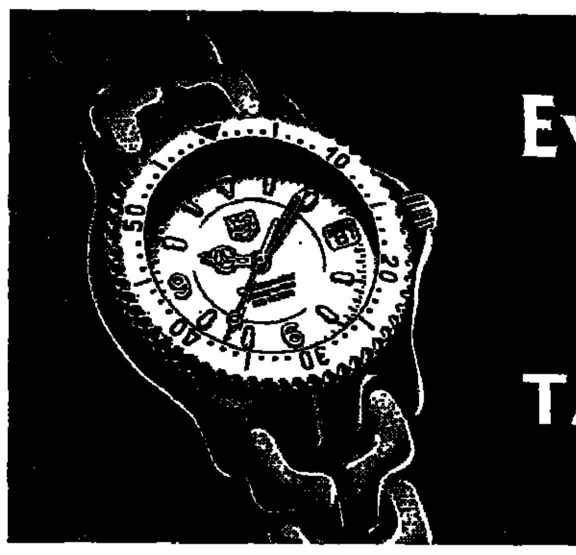
Maguire, 24, missed Cheltenham last year after the death of his mother. His season has been blighted by injuries, the latest of which is expected to sideline him for up to 21 days. It is the third time that he has fractured his right collar-bone. Williamson has ridden just twice since he broke his leg in a spill at Sedgefield in October. Having dislocated his right shoulder at Newbury on February 10, he was to have his comeback mount yesterday after a week of schooling horses at Kim Bailey's stables, but his troublesome shoulder returned to haunt him as he attempted to draw his whip. He is to undergo surgery early next week and will be out of action for four months.

Williamson, 27, won four races at the Cheltenham Festival last year and finished the season with his best haul, riding 130 winners. He completed the Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup double, aboard Alderbrook and Master Oats, respectively, to match the rare Fred Winter feat of 1961.

Bailey, who trains both horses, has approached Richard Dunwoody to partner Alderbrook and Jamie Osborne for Master Oats, but both jockeys have prior commitments, to Fortune And Fame and Flashing Steel. A decision on the former's participation in the Champion Hurdle will be made on Monday.

Maguire's projected book of Cheltenham rides was the envy of his colleagues. He is retained by David Nicholson, the trainer who expects to saddle 25 runners over the three days. Nicholson was last night in contact with Charlie Swan, Ireland's champion jockey, and Richard Johnson, Nicholson's conditional jockey, will also be given his chance.

Racing, pages 48, 49



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Republican machine in South Carolina toils to rescue Dole's faltering campaign

Buchanan plays on old prejudices in Southern citadel

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

IT WAS a gambit straight from the campaign manual of George Wallace, the former Governor of Alabama, who stood in a school door in 1963 and declared blacks would never enter.

Yesterday, before dozens of television cameras, Pat Buchanan stood at the great gates of Charleston's Citadel military academy and vowed that under his presidency no more women would enter that venerable, all-male institution.

Scores of uniformed cadets who skipped classes to greet their hero whooped and cheered in the rain as he denounced "left-wing lawyers" in Washington who forced the state-financed Citadel to accept Shannon Faulkner last summer. Miss Faulkner lasted just six days, most of them in the infirmary, but three more women are now suing for admittance.

"In my first week in office I will call those fellows at the Justice Department and say, 'Listen: as of today you are changing sides. You are on the side of the Citadel, or you are going back to Berkeley'," he declared.

Mr Buchanan's defiant demagoguery may cost him a few women's votes into today's critical South Carolina primary, but will delight the state's legions of social conservatives and the many southerners who deeply resent Washington telling them how to conduct their business.

Since his arrival in South Carolina on Wednesday Mr Buchanan, a master of the subtle gesture, has missed no opportunity to inflame the Old South's lingering resentments and prejudices. He has passionately defended the state's insistence on flying the Confederate battle flag over its statehouse.

US PRIMARIES

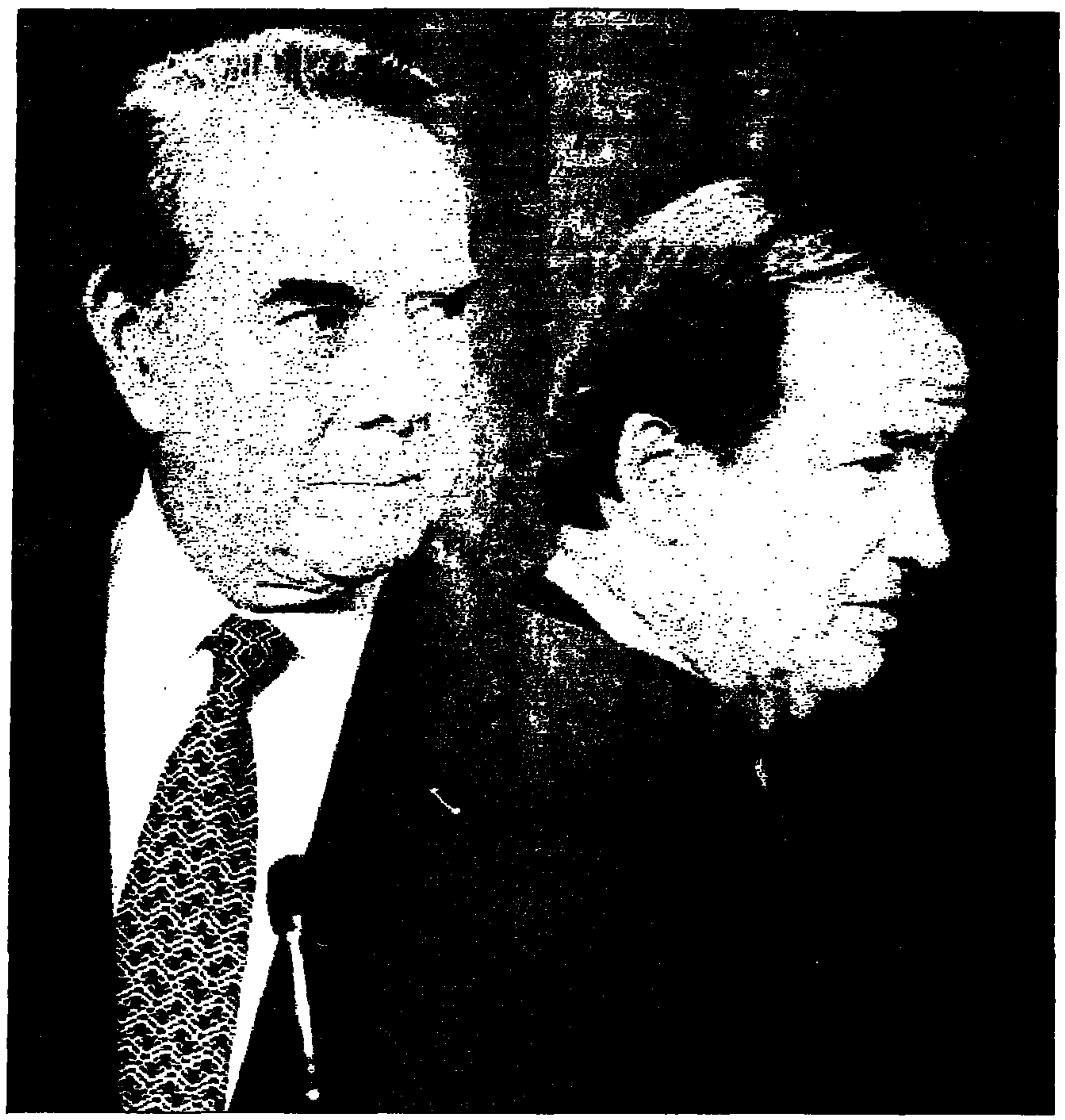
He has gloried in his forebears who were Confederate soldiers. He has deplored the disparagement of General Robert Lee, the Confederate general, in modern school textbooks. He has shared a stage with Lester Maddox, the racist who was elected Governor of neighbouring Georgia in 1967 after chasing blacks from his restaurant and then closing the business rather than desegregate it. He has pledged to restore the charitable status that Washington took away from a Christian fundamentalist college in South Carolina because it barred inter-racial dating.

Mr Buchanan is running an extreme campaign, but the stakes in today's primary are extraordinarily high. Robert Dole hopes a big victory will burst the Buchanan bubble, restore his own front-runner status after several disastrous weeks, and give him a huge boost before the six other southern primaries. Conversely, a Buchanan victory would be a near-mortal blow to Mr Dole's battered candidacy.

Today's result could also kill off Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor who has yet to win a primary. Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, also looks set for a disappointing result but has the money to survive.

Final polls showed Mr Dole ahead, and South Carolina's entire Republican establishment is working to deliver the state for him, but much will depend on the Christian conservatives who comprise up to half of the vote.

Leading article, page 23



Robert Dole, left, and his rival, Pat Buchanan, square up for a debate in Columbia, South Carolina, before today's primary

AROUND AMERICA

Peru air crash kills 123

London: A Peruvian airliner crashed into a 1,300ft-deep canyon in the southern Andes on Thursday night, killing the 117 passengers and six crew (Gabriella Gamini writes). Hopes of finding survivors were abandoned after rescue workers failed to reach the region until yesterday.

The Boeing 737 of the domestic Fawcett Airlines was flying from Lima, the Peruvian capital, to Arequipa when it came down as it prepared to land. Its fuselage was left hanging on a rocky hill while the rest of the aircraft was strewn along the canyon.

After reaching the site yesterday a rescue worker said: "All we have found are the charred remains of the aircraft and passengers."

Star criticises US journalism

Los Angeles: Robert Redford, who starred 20 years ago with Dustin Hoffman in *All The President's Men*, the story of two *Washington Post* reporters who uncovered the Watergate scandal, has said that the film was partly responsible for a continuing slide in the standards of American journalism (Giles Whittell writes).

The film's portrayal of journalistic power seduced a generation of high achievers with a tendency to put their egos above their craft, Redford said in an interview on his latest film, in which he portrays a television news producer.

Kevorkian tells court of his tears

Pontiac, Michigan: Dr Jack Kevorkian took the stand yesterday at his trial for assisting suicide, saying he sometimes cries after watching people die but feels obliged to help to end their pain. "My desire is to aid this suffering human being as I would any suffering entity," he said. "When I wince at the suffering, I must do something." Dr Kevorkian said that he had never wanted his patients to die and had persuaded a number of them to seek a solution other than suicide. *(AP)*

Cuban exile pilot takes non-violent path to oust Castro

Basulto: converted to doctrine of Gandhi

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

JOSÉ BASULTO, the Cuban exile pilot who will today lead a fleet of aircraft and boats from Miami to a ceremony at the spot where a Cuban MiG jet downed fellow fliers a week ago, used to believe that military means were the only way to defeat Fidel Castro.

That was before he began reading about the works of Martin Luther King and studying the non-violent methods of Mahatma Gandhi. Now he dismisses Miami's handful of warrior exiles, who spend their spare time at makeshift military training camps in the Everglades, as "useless for all practical purposes". Instead, Mr Basulto preaches his own brand of non-violence designed, he says, to encourage a peaceful civil opposition movement inside Cuba.

Acts such as today's ceremony at sea, he says, help to show Cubans that there are ways to confront the Castro regime. "By taking risks ourselves, we have to show the people in Cuba that, if they are willing to do the same, they can win back the rights Castro has taken away."

Critics call him a provocateur who hopes to spark an international conflict that would lead to American military intervention in Cuba. To avoid that, President Clinton ordered the US Coast Guard to escort today's sea and air ceremony, where prayers will be said for the four dead fliers, all members of Brothers to the Rescue, the Miami group of voluntary pilots founded by Mr Basulto.

The White House, taking every step to ensure a peaceful demonstration, has warned Señor Castro not to interfere in the protest service. The Administration has also insisted that the defiant memorial for the pilots must take place in international waters and threatened action against any American aviator penetrating Cuban airspace. Angered by what it regards as further provocation, Cuba has demanded that Washington prevent the ceremony, although it says it will not intervene as long as the exiles remain outside its 12-mile limit.

Given Mr Basulto's past record, Cuba has reason to be suspicious of the motives of Brothers to the Rescue. Trained by the CIA in preparation for the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, Mr Basulto was infiltrated into the island as a radio operator shortly before the force landed. When it failed — betrayed, Mr Basulto believes, by the Kennedy Administration — he escaped by jumping a fence at the US base at Guantánamo Bay.

He returned to Cuba in the 1960s on commando-style raids by boat, on one occasion firing rockets at a hotel on the Havana seafront housing Russian advisers. But increasingly he came to realise that armed struggle was futile and that neither the CIA nor the US Government could be trusted.

His final turn away from armed warfare came in the early 1990s when, moved by the plight of Cubans trying to leave the island on flimsy rafts, he developed the idea for Brothers to the Rescue.

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Spanish voters set to exorcise the ghost of Franco

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

SPAIN seems certain this weekend to elect its first right-wing Government untainted by the legacy of Franco.

The old dictator's ghost has haunted modern Spanish politics, to the profit of the Socialists and the dismay of the conservatives. But when 30 million Spaniards vote for a new Government tomorrow they will confirm that the ghost has been exorcised.

"A vote for the Right is a vote for Franco", was a refrain that secured the last elections for Señor González, three years ago. This time, too, the Socialists have played the Franco card — relentlessly, and with little imagination — but to much lesser avail.

"No pasarán" — "they will not enter" — said Señor González, speaking of the Popular Party at a recent rally, in echo of a cry employed by the Republicans in the Spanish civil war. "We will enter," responded José María Aznar, with panache, at a later meeting in Valencia. "Señor González talks only of fear and bitterness. He talks of a Spain which does not exist to a Spain which does not believe him."

The Popular Party leader has a point. His party is as far removed from the legacy of Franco as it is possible to be — a legacy Señor Aznar described recently as "profoundly harmful for Spain" — and is almost exactly as a party of Tory "wets" would be. His strength, of course, is due largely to the weakness of Señor González. Scandals have hit the Socialists at an astonishing rate, in waves as varied as the exposure of State-run death squads to the more basic, old-fashioned theft by ministers, bank governors and police chiefs. Unemployment, at 23 per cent of the workforce, is Western Europe's highest.

> González talks of a Spain which does not exist to a Spain which does not believe him

But Señor Aznar deserves credit for putting to rest Spain's fear of "the Right". He is sober — almost to the point of dullness — courteous and unprepossessing. Learning important lessons from his 1993 election defeat, he is today slicker with the media and more pithy in his responses to provocative questions.

Yet his moderation has generated its own policy contradictions. He has assured Spanish voters that he will neither raise taxes, nor cut welfare spending. Social security, however, is Spain's major problem, and the clearest proof that the country is living well beyond its means. Señor Aznar cannot, realistically, leave it untouched.

Sensing an unrevealed programme behind the election promises, Spain's pensioners are likely to remain loyal to Señor González. The financial and industrial sectors, as well as the employers' federation, have lined up to lend Señor Aznar their support. Deep down, they reason, must surely lie a commitment to economic growth and balanced books.

To govern on his own, Señor Aznar needs at least 176 seats out of the 350 in Congress. Opinion is divided on whether he will reach that magic number. Antonio Fontán, the former president of the Senate and now editor of *Nueva Revista*, Spain's best respected conservative journal, told *The Times* the Popular Party would win up to 180 seats.

Many others disagree. In the more likely event of his getting fewer seats than an absolute majority, Señor Aznar would have to rely, as the Socialists have done since 1993, on the parliamentary support of the nationalist Catalan and Basque parties, which have revealed little of their plans.

Felipe González waves to supporters with Catalan flags in Barcelona

Gorbachev aims to inject ideas into anti-Yeltsin battle

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, the former Soviet President, confirmed yesterday that he would be standing for the Russian presidency in June, despite universal predictions that he is heading for a fall.

Mr Gorbachev, 65 today, said Russian voters were looking for a third candidate to save them from the prospect of the two front-runners, President Yeltsin and the Communist Party leader, Gennadi Zyuganov.

"Two parties, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and the party of power, want to impose on us the rules of a game which deprive us of any choice," he said. He hoped to hold a conference of "democratic forces", in which he could make terms with the popular economist, Grigori Yavlinsky, who also sees himself as the democratic alternative to Mr Yeltsin and Mr Zyuganov. Mr Yavlinsky, whose poll ratings are much higher than Mr Gorbachev's, is unlikely to agree.

Opinion polls suggest Mr Gorbachev has the support of less than 1 per cent of the electorate and his chances of success are remote. A whole generation of voters blame him for the collapse of the Soviet Union and a fall in their living standards. However, in an interview with *The Times* last month, Mr Gorbachev said he was encouraged that many people were already pledging support.

Mr Gorbachev's decision to stand opens another round in the ten-year conflict between himself and his old rival, Mr Yeltsin, after a five-year truce. In a reflection of official contempt, the news on the second television channel, Russian Television, did not even record Mr Gorbachev's press conference.

Mr Gorbachev will be hoping to profit from the plummeting popularity of the President. Set against an administration seen as overblown and corrupt, Mr Gorbachev is the model of integrity and, although the same age as Mr Yeltsin, he comes across as more energetic and dynamic.

The playwright Aleksandr Gelman argued in the weekly *Moscow News* this week that Mr Gorbachev would be an ideal President because he was not interested in power for its own sake. "I am sure if Gorbachev was elected the President of Russia, he would carry out his duties more successfully than any other current candidate." But he went on to say that he had no chance of winning.

If little else, the former Soviet President will inject some new ideas into the presidential debate. He said yesterday a top priority should be to abandon Moscow's current policy on the breakaway republic of Chechenia and negotiate directly with the rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Mr Gorbachev has been laying the ground very carefully for his re-entry into active politics. He made a series of trips to the provinces and published his memoirs. The book has already raised a stir about the allegations Mr Gorbachev makes about the sacking of Mr Yeltsin as head of the Moscow city Communist Party in November, 1987. According to Mr Gorbachev, Mr Yeltsin stabbed himself in the chest in his office with his desk scissors in an act of despair on November 9, two days before the sacking.

In Mr Yeltsin's own version of the incident in his memoirs, he says: "On 9 November I was taken to hospital with a severe bout of headaches and chest pains. My body had been unable to withstand the nervous strain and I had suffered a physical breakdown."

Tribunal charges Serb general

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

DJORDE DJUKIC, the Bosnian Serb general whose arrest by the Bosnian Government last month nearly undermined the Balkan peace process, was yesterday charged with crimes against humanity by the international war crimes tribunal.

The general, 60, is a close aide of General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military leader, who was in charge of logistics for the Bosnian Serb Army. He is accused of aiding in the shelling of civilians in Sarajevo throughout the three-and-a-half-year siege of the capital which killed more than 10,000 people. He is only the second of 53 indicted criminals to be in custody at The Hague.

Because he oversaw the transfer of weapons from Serbia to the Bosnian Serb Army and was in charge of supplying the front lines, the prosecutors speculated that General Djukic could implicate President Milosevic of Serbia in committing war crimes. They also hoped he could play a key role as a witness against Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb general, both indicted for genocide.

Tribunal prosecutors gave up their hopes when General Djukic refused to co-operate. "Being unable to continue to regard General Djukic as a witness, we have had the opportunity of considering evidence we have against him," a tribunal spokesman said.

Milan Vujin, a Belgrade lawyer representing the general, ridiculed the indictment. "This contains one fact: that General Djukic is in the Bosnian Serb Army," he said. "If that is all they have, we can get the trial over today."

☐ **Zagreb**: Ante Gudelj, 48, a Croat convicted of a murder that helped to touch off the Serb-Croat war in eastern Croatia in 1991, has been extradited from Germany, newspapers reported. He was sentenced in 1994 in absentia to 20 years in prison. *(AP)*

Paris honours TV's Columbo

Paris: Peter Falk, the actor who plays Columbo, the dishevelled TV detective, yesterday became the latest American to be awarded France's highest arts honour (Ben Macintyre writes).

After Tina Turner, Sylvester Stallone and a host of other US performers, Falk, 69, was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters.

"Columbo" is so popular in France it has entered the language — *un Lieutenant Columbo* means a particularly dogged investigator.

Suspected killer dies in siege

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A MAN believed to be the serial killer who has terrorised the small north Italian town of Merano for the past month died yesterday when police stormed a farmhouse two miles from the town.

There were reports that the alleged killer had shot himself before the police moved in. A note found by the body read: "You were too late." The man was named as Ferdinand Gamper, 39, a shepherd.

Merano, a sedate spa town in the mountains near the Austrian border, has been living in fear after a series of murders in which all the five victims were shot in the head late in the evening.

On Tuesday, a factory worker was shot dead in front of his fiancée while standing in the main cathedral square of Merano. The woman gave police a full description of the killer, which matched that of the body found yesterday. The killer was said to be a tall blond man with a blue rucksack on his back; a blue rucksack was found next to the body when police entered the farmhouse yesterday.

Police also found the .22-calibre gun thought to have been used in the killings. The farmhouse had been set on fire and the body of the alleged killer was partly burnt, along with other evidence.

Police had been called to the scene following the discovery of a body of a man aged 58 in a nearby hut. But when the police arrived they were fired on from the farmhouse, and a fierce gun battle followed in which one policeman was killed.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Divers explore 1791 shipwreck off Australia

Ocean may yield clues to mutiny on the Bounty

By Des Houghton

A TREASURE hunt is under way off the Australian coast for clues to one of the most infamous episodes in British seafaring history.

The wreck of *HMS Pandora*, which sank in 1791, has already given up scores of extraordinary relics. She was returning to England with 14 mutineers from the 1789 *HMS Bounty* rebellion when she struck the Great Barrier Reef and sank off Cape York.

Now, more than 205 years on, researchers are wondering whether *Pandora* may yield a different treasure: journals by mutineers recounting their side of the story of the uprising against Captain William Bligh. When the mutineers were recaptured in Tahiti their personal journals were seized and stored on the ship and may still be in the hull on the ocean floor covered with layers of sand.

Peter Gesner, the Queensland Museum archaeologist leading the exploration of the wreck, said yesterday a "Pompeii effect" had preserved many items uncovered there. He said there there was a possibility, however remote, that documents could be recovered. Items recovered so far were in excellent condition because they had been buried in a sandy sediment in much the same way remains from Pompeii were preserved because they had been buried under layers of ash.

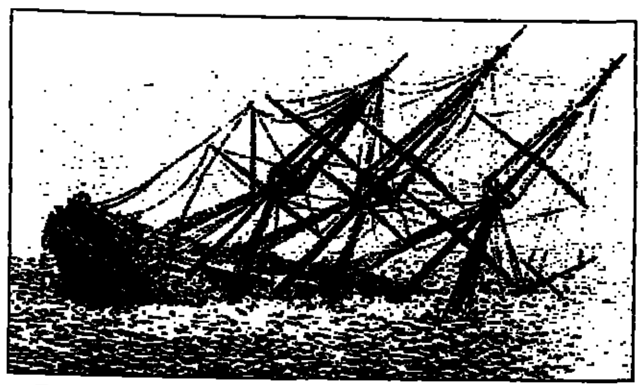
Iain MacKenzie, of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, said there was a "faint chance" Mr Gesner and his team of divers could find journals, but only if they had been wrapped securely and stored in a heavy chest or cabinet. "Some ships' records were securely bound in oilcloth, others were sometimes placed in canvas bags before being stored in a chest or a cabinet," he said. "It was up to the captain. The more valuable the records, the more care was taken."

More than 400 items have been taken from the wreck, which rests in 100ft of water. The haul includes silver and brass coins, two cannon, numerous guns, medical implements, crockery, cutlery and glassware, buttons from officers' uniforms, brushes, ship's fittings, a quadrant, bolts and nails and a collection of Polynesian war clubs and carved shells which were probably collected in Tahitian waters during the unsuccessful three-month search for the *Bounty*.

Other items which captured the public imagination when they were put on display in Queensland were a chamber pot with barely a blemish, and an intricately engraved fob watch. Last week Mr Gesner found a complete skeleton when divers using a water dredge began to syphon away layers of sand. "We have another metre or so of sand to sift through, and it is getting interesting," Mr Gesner said. He said it was the second skeleton recovered from the ship which claimed a total of 31 crewmen and four alleged mutineers when it sank.

The first skeleton was examined by scientists and confirmed as a male aged between 20 and 25. It was re-interred in an underwater burial service. A monument has been erected near the wreck on the ocean floor and a government order has declared the site out of bounds to pleasure divers.

At least 25 per cent of the 117ft-long frigate remains intact. Mr Gesner hopes to find a sponsor to bring *Pandora* relics to England for public showing, possibly at the Royal Navy Museum at Portsmouth.



Pandora **sinks after striking the Great Barrier Reef**

The *Bounty*, some of whose mutineers were captives on the *Pandora*, and, below, a recovered gold fob watch

High-tech era opens at Paris Opera

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

THE home of the Paris Opera reopened last night after an 18-month restoration project that cost £20 million but has returned the 19th-century palace to its original splendour.

The Palais Garnier, built between 1861 and 1875 on the orders of Napoleon III and named after Charles Garnier, its architect, now boasts high-tech stage machinery, new safety controls and modern air-conditioning. The lavish interior has been completely renovated in accordance with Garnier's original plans, but the celebrated ceiling painted by Marc Chagall in 1964 has been cleaned and left in place.

Garnier meant the building to be "a temple to a unique art that speaks to the eyes, the ears, the heart and the passions", but Verdi once dubbed it "the Grand Boutique".

Under President Mitterrand, the building was exclusivly dedicated to ballet, while the new Bastille opera house, one of the Socialist leader's grandest and most controversial architectural projects, became the official home of opera in Paris. Last night's grand reopening was marked by a concert performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* conducted by Sir Georg Solti.

Greece expels military attachés

From Reuter in Athens

GREECE said yesterday that it wanted Italy and The Netherlands to recall their military attachés in Athens after they were detained with documents which "could have been related to information on military installations".

A written statement by Dimitris Reppas, a government spokesman, said that the attachés, both from European Union countries, were not charged with criminal activities because of their diplomatic status.

"Notes were found which belonged to them and could have been related to information on military installations on [the eastern Aegean island of] Lesbos," the statement said. "Their recall has been requested."

The statement gave no details but it followed a question in parliament by a ruling Socialist Party deputy who said that the two attachés were detained on Lesbos in January, shortly before Greece and Turkey almost went to war over Imia, an Aegean islet, which Turkey calls Kardak.

☐ Ships collide: Greece protested to Turkey yesterday, over the collision of a Greek missile boat with a Turkish Coast Guard vessel near Imia.

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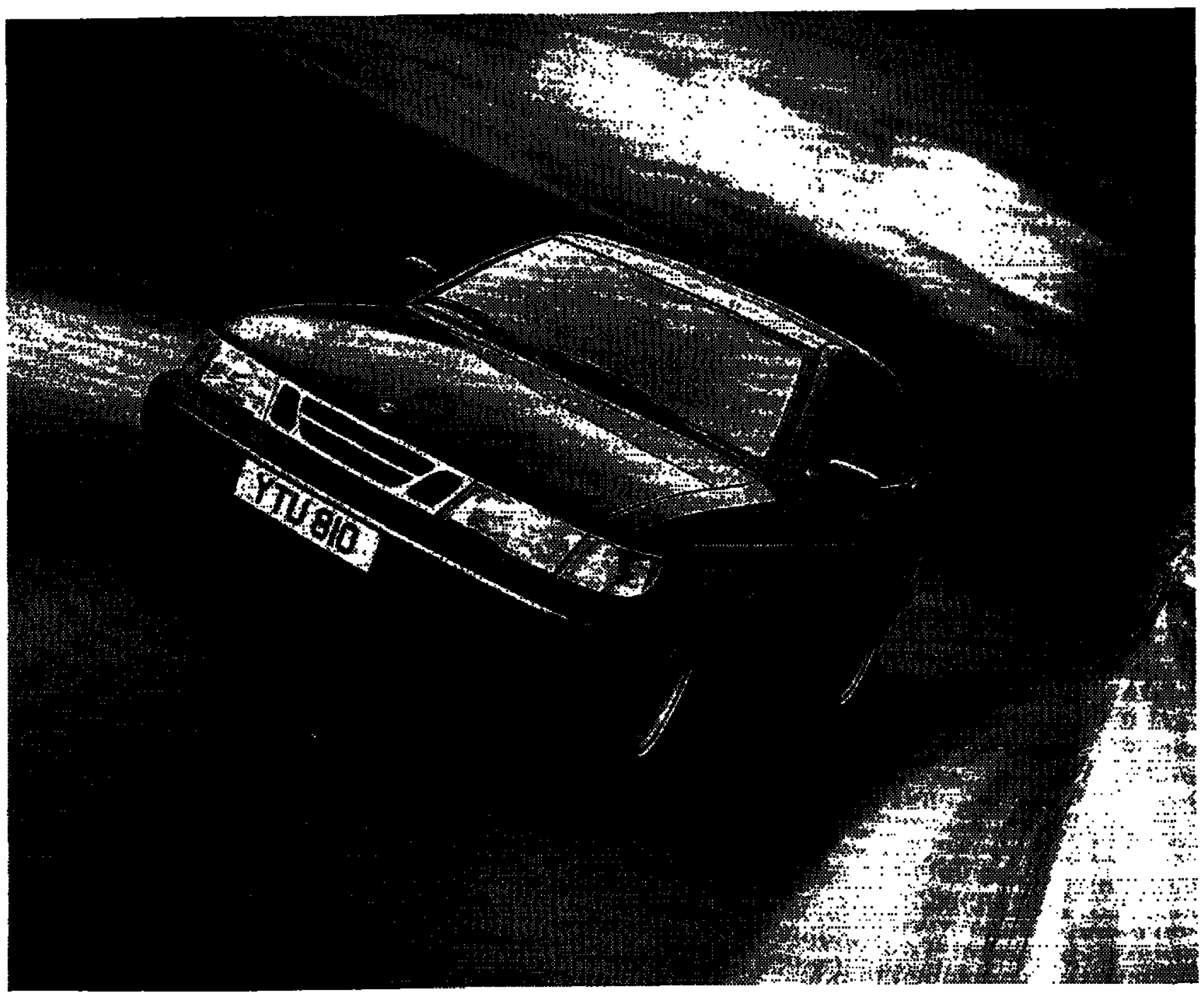

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Church makes papal health taboo as frail pontiff contemplates foreign ventures and the year 2000

Vatican faces unthinkable

VATICAN FILE
by RICHARD OWEN

THERE is a strong resemblance between the Vatican and the Kremlin, or the Kremlin as it used to be: the high walls, the faithful, the doctrine, the secrecy. Moreover, the health of the Pope is rapidly becoming as taboo a subject as that of the Kremlin leaders used to be.

When the Vatican confirmed this week that new arrangements were in place for the conclave to choose the next Pope, Vatican officials swiftly denied that this cast any doubt on the health of John Paul II. "The Pope is in perfect health," said Bishop Jorge Mejia, secretary to the College of Cardinals.

However, the pontiff will be 76 in May, and perfect is not the first words that springs to most minds. Every Sunday a great shout goes up from the crowd packed into St Peter's Square as he appears at his window high above. But close to he looks weary and frail. He was overcome by nausea while reading his Christmas message and his trip last month to Latin America has taken its toll.

The conclave arrangements have focused minds on the unthinkable: the papal succession. It is nearly 18 years since the cardinals gathered under Michelangelo's stupendous frescoes in the Sistine Chapel to choose a Polish Pope, Karol Wojtyla, following the brief reign and mysterious death of John Paul I. Perhaps with his own mortality in mind, John Paul II has issued new rules for the next conclave: the 120 cardinals will still gather in the Sistine Chapel, but will eat and sleep in a modernised hostel, St Martha's.

Despite the denials, there is discreet speculation over the name that will accompany the white smoke emerging from the chimney above St Peter's Square. Since two out of three Roman Catholics live in the developing world there are hopes that the throne of St Peter will go to an African, such as Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria, 64, or a South American, such as Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves of Brazil, 71.

But there is a growing view that the papacy will revert to Italy. Leading the field is Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, 69, of Milan. Bookshops near the Vatican prominently display the colour-illustrated volume issued last year to mark the fifteenth anniversary of his consecration as Archbishop of Milan and he is rarely out of the news: this week he engaged Umberto Eco, the writer, in a debate on man's moral vision, and spoke out on the relevance of the Bible to the modern media. Cardinal Martini, a Jesuit, appeals to liberal Catholics. He was an early supporter of the Milan magistrates' "Clean Hands" campaign which turned the corrupt world of Italian politics upside down three years ago and his social activism and emphasis on reconciliation are contrasted with the conservatism of John Paul II.

Cardinal Martini, Archbishop of Milan, seen as possible successor to John Paul II

But the pontiff remains a revered and charismatic figure. Despite the cumulative effect of the attempt on his life in 1981, an operation to remove a colon tumour and a hip operation, he is determined to make more foreign trips this year (South America was his sixty-ninth). Above all, his fading eyesight is fixed on the year 2000. John Paul may yet surprise the cardinals by fulfilling his vow to mark the millennium by climbing Mount Sinai with Jewish and Muslim leaders.

Superhighway to heaven

THE Vatican not only keeps up to date with the cinema — it issued a controversial list this week of 45 recommended films — but also with new technology. The Holy See is bracing itself for a flood of Internet messages for Easter. According to Joaquin Navarro-Valls, its spokesman, the Vatican's web site has had hundreds of thousands "hits" a day since it went on line at Christmas.

Many users want the Pope to intercede for them; others offer him advice on his health and diet. What they get back is the Vatican Information Service, which puts out the Pope's speeches. Señor Navarro-Valls, a former Spanish journalist well versed in the ways of the information superhighway, hopes to make the service more flexible so Catholics — and others — can engage in electronic dialogue with the Vatican, if not with the Holy Father himself. The address is http://www.vatican.va

Holy See courts Gaddafi

VATICAN foreign policy has not enjoyed a particularly high profile since the great East-West confrontation of the Cold War. But the Pope still takes a keen interest in regional conflicts, above all the Middle East, and has reportedly put out diplomatic feelers to one of the pariahs of the Arab world: Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya. The Pope's "foreign minister", Monsignor Jean-Louis Tauran, met the colonel in his tent in the desert last September, and there is talk of a Gaddafi visit to the Vatican this spring.

The move would cut across UN sanctions against Libya over terrorism. On the other hand, Italy has always had closer relations with Tripoli than other European states — Libya is a former Italian colony — and might turn a blind eye. The Vatican hopes Israel will turn a blind eye, too. There are 60,000 Catholics in Tripoli, Benghazi and Derna, and Colonal Gaddafi is said to value the work of Catholic nuns in Libyan hospitals and orphanages.

The Painter in his Studio, one of the Vermeer works withheld by anxious owners from the exhibition

Dutch go wild over Vermeer

BY CHARLES BREMNER

AFTER sparking scenes of hysteria in Washington and fuelling a transatlantic fad for 17th-century Holland, a collection of works by Johannes Vermeer went on show in the artist's home country yesterday. The exhibition is sold out for its duration.

Hundreds packed in and around the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague, a handsome period town house, for a first glimpse of the show which gathers 22 of the 35 surviving works by the Delft innkeeper whose exquisite technique makes him the Mozart of the visual arts.

The long-awaited European debut of the exhibition, mounted jointly with Washington's National Gallery, has started a full-scale Vermeer festival. The Dutch Government has issued postage stamps, the shops are awash with merchandise from CD-Roms to T-shirts, and tourists are expected to flock to Delft.

"We sense a bit of hype going on at the moment. Everyone is just inspired by the *oeuvre*," said a spokeswoman at the Mauritshuis as the first paying customers struggled for a view in the four rooms whose intimacy matches the artist's spirit but which makes for overcrowding.

All 350,000 reservable tickets have been long sold out. However, 200 tickets a day are available to those prepared to queue and the museum is preparing to stay open sometimes to midnight as the spring progresses. In Washington, people queued overnight in the snow. Some art lovers turned violent with gallery officials when they failed to wheedle their way in.

Europeans have until June 2 to see such works as *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*, *The Milkmaid* and *The Music Lesson* — owned by the Queen — all in one setting. "Only once before have so many Vermeers kept company and that was 300 years ago," said Frits Duparc, director of the Mauritshuis.

The show includes two Hague-based works — *The Milkmaid* and *The Love Letter* — which were deemed too fragile to join the Washington exhibition. So great was the effort needed to persuade owners to part for a year with their prized possessions, and so daunting the risks in assembling two-thirds of Vermeer's work, that no repeat is likely for some time.

The Dutch Government came to the rescue over insurance by shouldering the bulk of the premium. Extraordinary precautions were taken over shipping, including transportation by separate aircraft, to limit the chance of accident or theft. One Vermeer — *The Concert* — is still at large after being stolen from the Gardner Museum in the US. Some museums declined to contribute or offered only part of their collections. *The Guitar Player*, for example, remains in the Kenwood, and the Louvre held on to its *Astronomer*, although it lent *The Lacemaker*.

Another absentee is *The Painter in his Studio*, which Hitler had specially plundered for him by his troops.

The Mauritshuis says it understands the dilemma because it had to contend with upset Japanese recently who had travelled to see its three Vermeers and found them absent.

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■ OPINION

Britain may not possess a new Beethoven, but our composers are at least worth hearing again

■ THEATRE

Peter Greenwell proves melodious but bland in the Noël Coward tribute, *A Talent to Amuse*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTES

Former Seeker seeks a new career: Judith Durham brings out her first solo album

■ BASE NOTES

. . . while in Germany the reclusive maestro Carlos Kleiber makes a return to the podium

Make friends with a nice composer

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

The very words "modern music" strike a chill in the heart, don't they? And it is true that, until the early 1980s, the modern-music experience was about as welcoming as the whirr of a dentist's drill approaching a mouldy molar. Even raddled old music critics (I speak from experience) used to draw up a mental balance-sheet before confronting a world premiere.

On the debit side: the new piece was probably going to be witless, tuneless, graceless and overlong. It would be called something like *Nobulon-Module VII/c*, and be accompanied by a programme-note riddled with pseudo-mathematical jargon that was even more impenetrable than the music. Quite an achievement.

It would be performed either very earnestly by bearded men in black polo-neck sweaters, specialising in squeaky sounds (the men, that is, not the sweaters — though I dare say that they, too, were selected for their uncompromising sonic qualities). Or it would be played very cavalierly by non-specialist orchestral musicians who made no secret of their contempt for the new work. One popular trick would be for the woodwind players, say, to spend the entire cacophony tootling *Three Blind Mice* — unnoticed by conductor, composer or audience.

Oh yes, the audience. That would be a very select bunch: the composer's family, friends and publisher, the Arts Council apparatchik who midwifed the composer's subsidy, and of course the critics. In other words, not many people who had actually paid for a ticket. And this charade went on night after night, year after year, bankrolled by taxes and BBC licence fees, and masquerading as some sort of brave exploration at the "cutting edge" of modern thought. What a con.

And on the plus side? Well, it gave the critics something to write about. But even this plus side had a debit side: the critics never told their readers how depressing their evenings were. That was not surprising: like the composers, they made their living by prolonging the avant-garde lie.

In 15 years, much has changed for the better. True, there are still a few unreconstructed dinosaurs around, churning out electronic dross by the kilowatt. But the dictatorship of taste established by dogmatic BBC music mandarins in the 1960s and then maintained by acquiescent critics and sheep-like Arts Council music officers — a dictatorship that snuffed out tunes from the subsidised arts world for decades — has broken down. Now the profusion of styles is positively democratic.

Some serious British composers have followed the lucrative American minimalist trail. Michael Nyman, he of the concrete-blasting scores to Peter Greenaway films, is the obvious example. Others, like John Taverner, purvey an appealingly tranquil mysticism.

Young firebrands like Mark-Anthony Turnage and James MacMillan compose works of terrific social passion. Nicholas Maw grapples with epic structures that revive the heroic tradition of Beethoven. Others, like Jonathan Dove, produce wonderful collaborations in the community with amateurs. Or, like Julian Anderson, they tap ethnic influences with amazing hybrid results.

Yet to the British public the words "modern music" still say "forbidding", "cerebral", or simply "not my cup of tea". Why? Perhaps because critics praised rubbish for so many decades that they are no longer believed when they really have something to cheer about. Perhaps because, in tough times, promoters are wary about flaunting anything unknown. And perhaps because newspapers seize on peripheral but sensational tiffs that perpetuate cobwebbed old stereotypes — "Birtwistle versus the Hecklers", for instance — rather than painting the broader picture.

This week the Arts Council issued a "consultation document" on subsidised new music. It contains worthy ideas about new technology, and some distinctly cranky ones about adopting "a more holistic approach". Doubtless it will now be discussed by innumerable committees . . . and have absolutely no effect on the central issue of persuading more people to enjoy new music.

That's sad. I know it is dangerous to make comparative judgements across art-forms; nevertheless, it seems clear to me that many British composers are now producing work that is far more vigorous and engaging than the ponderously self-conscious tomes that pass for serious British literature these days, or the jejune installations that grace the Tate and Serpentine Galleries.

Yet each year we watch a media display of abject fawning as a cosy cahooterie of critics and publicists wrap yards of hype round the Turner and Booker contestants. It's like wrapping tinsel round stunted rhubarb. As a result the British public is more aware of fourth-rate novelists and sculptors than it is of top-class composers.

That must change. Composers don't need long-winded "green papers" from arts bureaucrats. But they do need media-wise people to market them with flair and energy. In the past year I have heard works by all the composers I listed above. Not every piece was a masterpiece. But I have never enjoyed concerts of modern music so much. This is as exciting a bunch of composers as you will find anywhere in the world, and well worth exploration. I wish you would believe me. Millions won't.

BASE NOTES

IN its 50th anniversary year, **Edinburgh**'s film festival — now bearing the intoxicating name "Drambuie" — will offer double the number of events presented last year, with several retrospectives. A series called *Films Which Changed the World* will include lectures by "international politicians and writers". Another series will concentrate on the films of 1947, the year in which the festival started. Silent classics and "the ten best documentaries of all time" are also featured. The festival runs from August 11 to 25.

● THE young Welsh baritone **Bryn Terfel** has not encountered many setbacks in his climb up the operatic ladder. But his fans will be disappointed by his withdrawal from the Royal Opera's performances of Strauss's *Arabella* this month and next (his co-star, Amanda Roocroft, has also withdrawn). Terfel, who would have been singing the role of Mandryka for the first time, has said that his schedule is too heavy for him to prepare the role adequately. **Wolfgang Brendel** steps in instead.

● MORE than 25 years after the heyday of the Seekers, the group's sweet-voiced lead singer is releasing her first solo album this month. **Judith Durham**'s *Mona Lisas* will be on the EMI Premier label.

● CLASSICAL music devotees with very healthy bank balances will be flocking to the Stadttheater Ingolstadt on Good Friday (April 5) to witness the latest return to concert life of the reclusive conductor **Carlos Kleiber**. Seat prices will range from £25 to £125 for a programme of Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms conducted by Kleiber — whose fee for the evening will probably be well in excess of £100,000.

TRISTRAM KENTON

Greenwell: "He bubbles affably along, whether cracking jokes about Sodom and Gomorrah or delivering a piece of spoof cynicism called *World Weary*"

Nice as a jellybean, but not the Master

THEATRE

A Talent to Amuse
Vaudeville

As the posters outside the Vaudeville remind us, Alan Jay Lerner called Peter Greenwell the best Noël Coward since Noël Coward. After seeing the chap himself sing some Coward songs, and relay a few Coward memories, I am baffled by the description.

Greenwell does not look like Coward nor sound like Coward. He does not have Coward's dry charm or his astringent wit. He wears a yellowish jacket and a pair of grey bags that Coward would have regarded as slightly less elegant than a winding-sheet. You could as well call Judi Dench the best Stephen Sondheim since Sondheim after hearing her sing *Send in the Clowns* in *A Little Night Music*.

This is not meant unkindly. Greenwell is a friendly, beaming cove, as efficient on the piano that fills the Vaudeville stage as you would expect Coward's one-time accompanist to be. He trots through the numbers that most people will want to hear: *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, *Any Little Fish*, *The Stately Homes of England*, and, with a timely reminder that Coward was furious at a million mothers' refusal to heed his earnestly meant plea, *Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage, Mrs Worthington*.

Moreover, he delivers several songs that are less familiar, at least to me. A diatribe against tourism called *I Travel Alone* — "What explains this mass mania to leave Pennsylvania?" — should be played day and night at every airport where people in shell-suits leave in jumbos for world beauty-spots. *Useless Useful Phrases*, which sends up the sort of phrasebook that encourages the English to tell foreigners "My cousin is deaf, kindly bring me a hatchet", would make an effective encore for the tannoys.

Greenwell celebrates both the Coward who composed wonderfully acerbic rhymes and the Coward who sentimentalised dear old London town. The trouble is that he hasn't the subtlety or range as a singer to distinguish very well between the two. He bubbles affably along, whether he is cracking jokes about Sodom and Gomorrah or delivering a piece of spoof cynicism called *World Weary*. It is like spending an evening with a very nice jellybean.

Did he tell me anything new about an artist whose every aspect ("he was, of course, terribly, terribly patriotic") he seems still to idolise? Well, I did not know Coward had written comic poems on travel themes ("if you've missed copulation in Gibraltar, go to Malta"). Nor did I know most of the anecdotes that punctuate the musical flow. If you want to hear how a genteel hotel receptionist told Bea Lillie she should say "personal summer" instead of "hot flush", this may be the one-man show for you. If you are looking for style and sophistication of performance, knock on another door.

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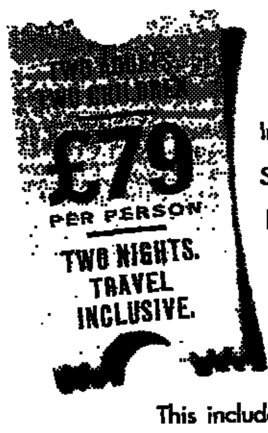

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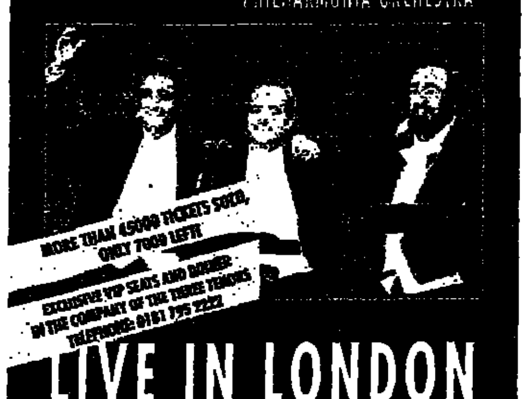

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Sun 3 Mar 4.00pm NB: time — BUDAPEST WIND ENSEMBLE. Kalman Berkes director. Druzecky: Partita in E flat; Beethoven: Rondo in E flat; Mozart: Serenade in C minor; Krommer: Partita in E flat; Bartók: Hungarian Peasant Songs. £14, £12, £9, £6. Erica Goddard

Mon 4 Mar 7.30pm — HARUKO SEKI piano. Scarlatti: 4 Sonatas; Schumann: Sonata in G minor Op.22; Chopin: Scherzo in B flat minor Op.31; Saint-Saëns: 4 Valses; Messiaen: 2 Pieces from *Vingt Regards sur l'enfant Jésus*. £11, £9, £7, £5. Mgt: Camrel Arts. Sponsors: CHIYODA Fire & Marine Insurance Company (Europe) Ltd

Tues 5 Mar 1.05pm NB: time — EMILY BEYNON flute. Lunchtime Concert. CATHERINE BEYNON harp. Bach: Sonata in G minor; Bax: Sonata; Flothius: Duo da Camera; Alwyn: Naiades, Fantasy Sonata. Supp. by Lloyds Music Foundation & City of Westminster. £3 (concessions £1). YCAT

Tues 5 Mar 7.30pm — THE HANOVER BAND Early Music & Baroque Series. ANDREW MANZE dir, vln; RACHEL BROWN flute, sop. recorder; JOHN TOLL harpsichord. Bach: Violin Concerto BWV1041; Brandenburg Concerto No.5; Vivaldi: Sop. Recorder Concerto; Concerti Grossi by Handel & Corelli. £15, £12.50, £10, £7.50

Wed 6 Mar 7.30pm — ANGELA HEWITT piano. Bach Programme. J.S. Bach: French Suite in G BWV816; 15 Sinfonias BWV787-801; Partita in D BWV828; Prelude & Fugue in A minor BWV894. £12, £10, £8, £6. Michael Webber Promotions

Fri 8 Mar 7.30pm — NACHTMUSIQUE: WINDS OF ORCHESTRA OF 18TH CENTURY. Mozart: Selections from *The Magic Flute*; 6 Horn Duos; Canonic Adagio; Serenade in E flat K375; J.C. Bach: Symphony in B (1782); Weber: Adagio and Rondo (1808). £12, £10, £8, £6. Wigmore Hall

Sat 9 Mar 7.30pm — LEIF OVE ANDSNES piano. London Piano Series. Beethoven: Sonata in B flat Op.22; Chopin: Ballade in F Op.38; Barcarolle in F sharp Op.60; Frank Martin: Fantaisie sur des rythmes flamenco; Schumann: Sonata in F sharp minor Op.11. £14, £12, £9, £6. Wigmore Hall/IMG Artists

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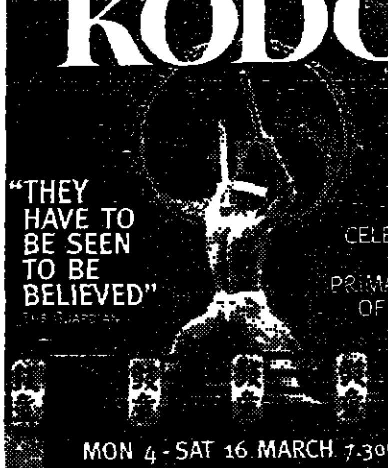

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■ CLOWNS

In Hackney the great Russian, Slava Polunin, reveals some of the secrets of his trade

■ JAZZ

How Gil hit it off with Miles: Evans and Davis are celebrated in two cities

THE TIMES ARTS

■ RECORDING

Emma Thompson in *Carrington*, and other new videos and CDs, reviewed in Weekend, page 8

■ ON MONDAY

The visual art world rolls out the welcome mat, as Gallery Week is launched across the country

What makes Slava Polunin 'the world's greatest clown'? **Andy Lavender** finds out

His quality of mirth is never strained

The news that the Russian clown Slava Polunin will be based in England for the next couple of years is not a story to sweep Northern Ireland — or the Princess of Wales — off the nation's front pages. Nonetheless, it is a minor uplift in these difficult times.

Polunin is a theatre clown, which is rather different from being a circus clown and, in this instance, a thing of sophistication. His show blends the traditional, the surreal and the poignant so subtly that you might leave the kids at home and go to see him for your own benefit.

Polunin is nearing the end of a short run of *Snowshow* at London's Hackney Empire. I meet him in his dressing room, 20 minutes before curtain-up. The whole company is there: Polunin, his wife Lena, his clown partner Angela De Castro and three members of his crew.

Our man is wearing corduroys, slumped in a swivel chair and smiling enigmatically. How casual he is, so close to curtain-up. Where is the trademark yellow romper suit and mad-professor hair? Is this really the man the writer and critic Howard Jacobson described as "the greatest of modern clowns"?

With ten minutes to go, Polunin starts to get ready. The white make-up is applied with careful ease, first around the mouth, then in two large ovals around the eyes. By now De Castro is a riot of greasepaint and looks like a black-jowled panda. Polunin motions that she should wipe a little of the black from under her eyes. "Marcel Marceau," he says — her arrangement hints a little too closely at Marceau's face-paint.

"I don't like Marceau," De Castro says, attending to the problem. "No, I like Marceau," Polunin replies, "but the style is old." He knows his clown history. One of the reasons for coming to Britain, he says, is because of his fondness for this country's comedy heritage, from music hall to Monty Python, from Grimaldi to Chaplin to Max Wall and Norman Wisdom. "All that tradition is already in the audience's blood," he says.

He pulls on his shaggy red slippers and pillbox nose. The mad-professor hair, it turns out, is his own. He simply runs his hand through it until it stands out.

I sit in the wings, next to the two clowns as they practise their first sighting of each other. Once the house lights have dimmed, Polunin hunches his shoulders and slowly walks onstage, his hair haloed in the light from the opposite wing. He is dragging a length of rope, the bulk of which lies offstage. He looks at the audience and smiles resignedly, and as he does so a light comes up on his face. The audience laughs expectantly. The clown is about to hang himself. He keeps pulling at the rope until it tautens, then pulls some more. The lugubrious De Castro now makes her entry.

> ‘The best clowning has a lot to do with courage and discipline’

The other end of Polunin's rope forms a noose round her own neck. The pair stop and stare at each other — just as they practised. The audience laughs, and Polunin's sweetly forlorn show is under way.

During the interval, De Castro chats to one of the theatre's staff. She has taken over from another performer as Polunin's sidekick and developed a new clown for the purpose. "Slava's clown is called Yellow," she says. "Mine is called Rough. He's like a sick dog."

"I saw some clowns once," she says after the show, "and I thought: 'That's me. That's what I want to do.' So I left home, left everything, and started training to be a clown."

ANDRE CAMARA

The Russian clown Slava Polunin applies his make-up before another successful show

There are a couple of surprises in the second half. After saying farewell to an imaginary lover at the train station, Polunin steps offstage. His wife has just lit something in a top hat with a hole cut in the crown. Polunin puts it on and enters again, billowing smoke like a train. His son, now dressed in yellow in readiness for his own appearance, runs round in circles in the wings, a boy at play while his father works.

They say that clowns have a childlike innocence, but you might argue that the best clowning has a lot to do with courage and discipline: the courage to be simple; the discipline to know when to refrain from gagging and flapping. Polunin might wear red and yellow, but he clowns in pastel colours. Watching from the wings makes his timing appear, if anything, more obviously skilful — a dab of expression here, a touch of a gesture there.

In the show's denouement, Polunin tears up a letter, only to be engulfed in a sudden snowstorm of paper. I stand behind the black drape at the back of the stage. Tony Gulley, the stage manager, is building up a cloud of dry ice from a machine. Lena is ready with a large tub of ticker-tape and one of the crew stands at the wind machine. This is a petrol-operated affair from Russia, started with a rip-cord.

The drape goes up and I am looking directly at the audience. This is better than watching the show — I'm actually in it! Except that, due to the cunning of stage lighting, nobody can see us standing at the back wall. The propeller is whirring, the dry ice and paper blasting past Polunin and into the auditorium. The audience cheers as soon as the wind subsides.

Towards the back of the auditorium there is a bar and some tables. Polunin likes to sit here once the show has ended, watching the audience who are now bouncing three huge inflated balls among themselves. He has removed his red nose and his greasepaint is smeared with sweat. A thirtysomething man approaches. "It's amazing, everybody's smiling," he says. "I go to the men's room and we're smiling. Look, you're all smiling. I'm from New York."

A woman introduces her son and daughter and their respective girlfriend and boyfriend. "Thank you," she says. "It . . . it makes your heart feel big."

● Snowshow *is at the Hackney Empire (0181-985 2424) until tomorrow, and will tour Britain later this year*

It was Gil's power that put Miles ahead

JAZZ: **Clive Davis** previews the London Sinfonietta's tribute to two great pioneers

As Miles Davis wrote: "To me Gil is not dead." A man not known for sentimental attachments or uttering sweet nothings, Davis expressed everyone's feelings about Gil Evans in his autobiography. It was, for the most part, a rancid book, overflowing with bile, used syringes and the sound of old scores being settled.

Yet when he reminisced about his friend and collaborator, even he began to soften. Evans, a self-effacing perfectionist, appears to have had that effect on most people who crossed his path. A self-taught master of the art of arranging, he was responsible for the bewitching scores on three classic Davis albums — *Miles Ahead, Porgy and Bess* and *Sketches of Spain* — recordings which belong among the most important in the jazz canon.

Eight years after his death, Evans's legacy will be acknowledged in two London Sinfonietta concerts next week. Directed by its principal conductor, Markus Stenz, the orchestra will give the first British concert performances of *Miles Ahead* and *Sketches of Spain*.

With two former Evans sidemen — Britain's Guy Barker and the American veteran Lew Soloff — due to share the solos, the venture is part of the latest decade-by-decade instalment of the Towards The Millennium festival, a season usually devoted to the classical repertoire. Stenz has defended his choice of the Davis-Evans partnership on the grounds that their collaboration exemplifed the spirt of the 1950s as forcefully as anything in so-called "straight" music.

Most Davis enthusiasts will, I suspect, be listening with fingers crossed. Evans's fusion of colour and rhythm demands a rare mixture of discipline and flexibility from musicians. Too much precision, and the result will be stilted; too much freedom and Evans's impressionistic tones and contrasts will be muddied.

It could be argued that even Evans himself did not quite get the balance right on *Sketches of Spain*: the longest piece, a setting of the slow movement of Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* sounds over-reverent today. But in the other pieces, especially the anguished trumpet call of *Saeta* — derived from a traditional unaccompanied vocal lament — he and Davis touched depths of expression that earlier arrangers had seldom dreamt of.

The two men, who first met in the 1940s were a study in contrasts: Davis, the irascible man about town and connoisseur of Ferraris; Evans a languid, other-worldly Canadian who, as one writer so memorably put it, looked "like a gently ageing diplomat who collects rare species of ferns on weekends". Although he had contributed to one of Davis's most important early recordings, the 1949-50 *Birth of the Cool* sessions with Gerry Mulligan and John Lewis, he did not begin a full-scale project with the trumpeter until 1957 when Columbia dipped into its coffers to finance *Miles Ahead*.

For most of the decade Evans had scraped by as a freelance arranger while, in his free time, immersing himself in myriad branches of jazz, classical and folk music. His multi-disciplinary tastes were clearly reflected in the new album which, with the use of delicate bridging sections, moved seamlessly from Delibes's *The Maids of Cadiz* to Dave Brubeck's *The Duke* and Kurt Weill's *My Ship*.

The following year he and Davis produced what many consider to be their masterpiece, a lyrical selection from *Porgy and Bess*. *Sketches of Spain* completed the trilogy in 1960. Though the two men did work together from time to time after that, it was never on the same ambitious scale of those Fifties sessions.

As Davis drifted towards pop in the Seventies and Eighties, vainly attempting to create "the best rock and roll band in the world", Evans too experimented with rock rhythms and textures. The freewheeling orchestra he put together for a long-running series of Monday-night dates at the Sweet Basil club in New York was much more likely to play Jimi Hendrix's *Little Wing* than *Blues for Pablo* or *The Buzzard Song*.

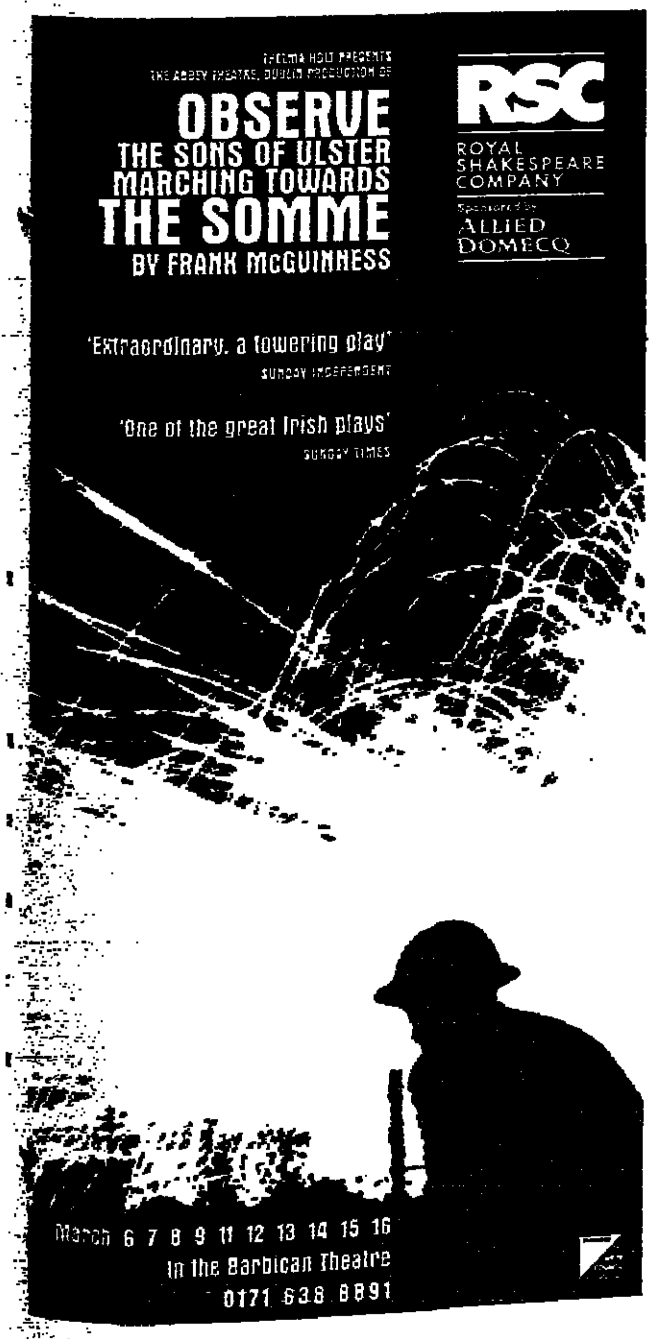
There was nothing of the diplomat in Evans's appearance by this time. Well into his seventies, his grey hair long and lank, he looked like everyone's idea of the swinging grandfather who had taken the road to Morocco. The music, which increasingly tilted towards long-winded guitar and saxophone solos, still had its admirers. But these were most definitely not the meticulously assembled miniatures of old.

The music industry — always conscious of budgets and deadlines — never fully appreciated Evans's talent. There should have been far more albums along the lines of those jewels, *Out of the Cool* and *The Individualism of Gil Evans*, the most evocative piece ever to be issued under his own name. Miles was right: Evans's spirit lives on.

● *The London Sinfonietta and Markus Stenz perform a tribute to Gil Evans and Miles Davis on Monday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London (0171-960 4242) and on Tuesday at Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333)*

MAX JONES FILES/REDFERNS

Study in contrasts: the irascible Miles Davis, and Gil Evans (right), the languid, other-worldly Canadian



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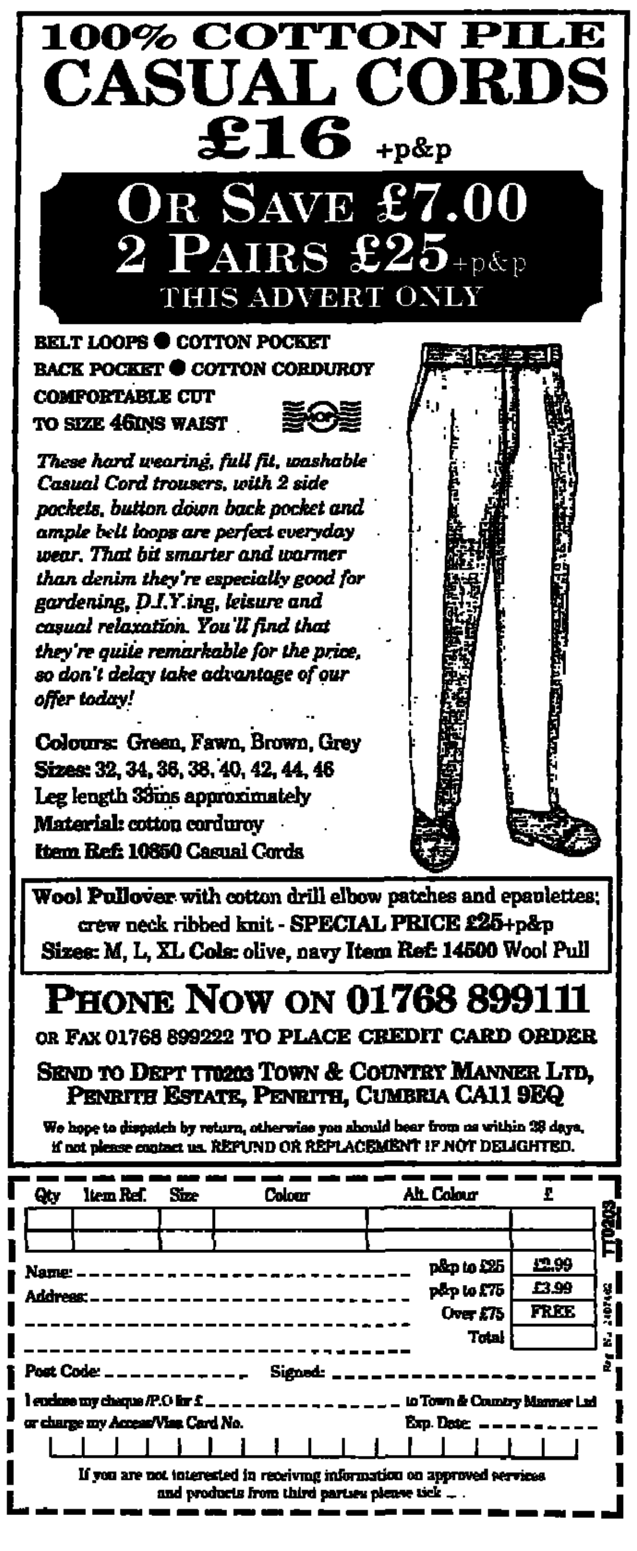

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Sassenachs, welcome to Murrayfield

Magnus Linklater begs Scots not to play politics with rugby

The Garrick Club is probably not the best place for a Scot to be on the eve of a Scotland-England rugby international. An event which is a national obsession north of the border is here reduced to a topic for genial banter. Polite interest takes the place of passion: a blanc de blanc (however good the vintage) is insufficient lubricant for a rollicking argument about line-out tactics; worst of all, there's that damned English sportsmanship. "My dear fellow," said the member. "Scotland positively deserve to win. They're playing far better than us. Jolly good luck to them." Nothing more irritates a Scot than to be subjected by an Englishman to generosity, encouragement and self-deprecation.

These are not, I have to say, virtues that will be readily on display in the pubs of Edinburgh this morning. The notion of extending the hand of good fortune to the English is almost impossible to contemplate in a city where T-shirts are on sale which bear the slogan "I support Scotland — or anyone playing England". One national newspaper will publish a 24-page supplement to mark the confrontation. Victory will signal an orgy of celebration. Defeat is unimaginable: this is the ultimate confrontation with the auld enemy.

Sporting battles are not always the best indicators of the state of a nation. Triumph on the terraces, the full-throated chanting of a jingoistic national anthem, rarely translate directly into political action, as Jim Sillars discovered to his chagrin when he lost his Scottish Nationalist seat in 1992 and accused his erstwhile supporters of being "ninety-minute patriots". The great majority of Scots enjoy a perfectly easy-going relationship with the English. But on the fringes there does seem to be a growing edge to national attitudes, a hostility which is meaner and less forgiving than is consistent with good neighbourliness.

An English friend, who has lived in Scotland since the 1960s, tells me he has encountered more aggression and resentment in the past few years than he has at any time since he first arrived. An English journalist, writing in one of the Scottish Sunday papers last weekend, complained about a "neighbourly distrust, resentment, and dislike that, on occasions, verges disturbingly on the paranoiac". There have been angry letters recently about the rising proportion of English students in Scottish universities. The vociferous backing given by Scots fans to foreign teams playing against England in both the football and rugby World Cups (even to the extent of donning the rivals' colours), contrasted shamingly with the generous support offered by England for the Scots.

This is, of course, part of the heritage of a small nation with a long history of asserting itself against a powerful neighbour. John Buchan recalled a childhood in which such prejudices were nurtured. "Brooding over Scottish history made us intense patriots of the narrowest school," he wrote. "Against our little land there had always stood England, vast, menacing and cruel... We early decided that no Englishman could enter Heaven." And Robert Louis Stevenson, in *Weir of Hermiston*, observed memorably: "For that is the mark of the Scot of all classes: that he stands in an attitude towards the past unthinkable to Englishmen, and remembers and cherishes the memory of his forebears, good or bad; and there burns in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation."

That identity rarely comes into sharper focus than when juxtaposed with England. The speaker on *Thought for the Day* yesterday who said that nationhood had nothing to do with anti-Englishness but was, rather, "a celebration", should spend a little time in Princes Street this afternoon. What he would find is Scottish nationalism measuring itself against an English scale and sometimes finding itself wanting. Because England is bigger, wealthier and more powerful, the result can be defiance — or awe. Attitudes hardened distinctly during Margaret Thatcher's period of government, and have shown little sign of softening since. Her strident Englishness and her assertion that she knew what was best for the Scots led to a growing sense of frustration. The results of successive elections, in which Scots voted consistently for one form of government, only to be landed with another, did little to help.

> Nothing irritates a Scot more than English generosity

It was not ever thus. In the 19th century, a self-confident Scotland with a booming economy, building an Empire "with a little help from the English" as one contemporary boasted, and enjoying a surprisingly healthy measure of devolved government, regarded itself as being on more or less equal terms with its southerly neighbour. Writers like Scott and Stevenson, fully aware of their nationality, nevertheless felt no embarrassment about being called "English". It was assumed that the natural self-confidence of the Scot abroad would always take him to the top. "There are few more impressive sights," observed J.M. Barrie, "than a Scotsman on the make."

It would be nice to think that Scotland could, sometime, revert to the state of relaxed self-confidence it enjoyed then. Resentment and envy are undignified emotions for a grown-up nation: it could do with a stronger streak of generosity than it currently displays. One of the arguments for political autonomy, in my view, is that it would give the Scottish people a greater sense of self-reliance and of being on a more even footing with the English. And that would reduce the sense of inferiority behind so many Scottish attitudes.

That, however, will have to wait. For it is my deep conviction that we will, this afternoon, give those self-satisfied English hoodlums the thrashing of their lives.

Major's meeting with Li Peng shows Britain is a spent force in Hong Kong, says **Jonathan Mirsky**

The lion lies down with the dragon

Today is the first time since 1991 that John Major has come to Hong Kong straight from a meeting with the Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, and in neither case was he trailing clouds of glory. The photographs of him and Mr Li in Bangkok on Thursday night wearing their new lustrous Thai-silk shirts, and Mr Major's rally-the-troops tone after their hour together cannot hide the truth from Hong Kong: Britain is a spent force here.

It is often said that on July 1, 1997 very little will change in Hong Kong. Handover ceremonies apart, one would hardly notice. This is cant. On that day there will be a political and social earthquake in Hong Kong which in other places would mark a revolution. After the People's Liberation Army takes over the garrison, China's governor and his inner cabinet will succeed Chris Patten and his; the first wholly elected Legislative Council will be dissolved; the Bill of Rights will be neutered; and supreme legal power on "matters of state" will move to Peking.

Mr Major said in Bangkok that his meeting with Mr Li was more satisfactory than the last. What can have satisfied him?

In September 1991, to reporters on his plane bound for America, Russia and China, Mr Major, then also facing an uncertain election, still looked like a world statesman. In Moscow, he was the first Western leader to meet Mikhail Gorbachev after the unsuccessful coup. The Peking leg of the trip was a humiliation. There, too, the Prime Minister was first on the scene — after the Tiananmen Square killings. He had been manoeuvred into it by the wily Li Peng, who craved international respectability.

The bait was the new Hong Kong airport. Since 1989 the Chinese, furious with Britain's condemnation of Tiananmen, refused to approve its construction, even though they would eventually get a brand new airport, free. Mr Li let it be known that if the Prime Minister himself came to Peking, a memorandum of understanding would be signed by them both — normally a task for junior ministers. Mr Major went, signed, and banged the table a bit about human rights. I asked him if he had been wearing his third-best suit as he was escorted by the smirking Mr Li. He replied, "Ah, you noticed."

Last Thursday night Mr Major once again had a fruitless time with Mr Li. He said he had sensed positive atmospherics but conceded that on the Legislative Council, the Bill of Rights, and human rights generally no agreement was possible. He urged Mr Li to restore confidence in Hong Kong, and may even have warned him that 500,000 more people are prepared to leave. But only a retention of the city's present partial democracy would truly reassure, and such an appeal would not have stirred the man who oversaw Tiananmen.

Although Mr Major and Governor Patten are responsible for Hong Kong's wholly elected Legislative Council, on Monday the Prime Minister will meet its members not in a public session but at a private tea party in Government House. Nothing could lose him more face.

Mr Major will tour the incomplete new airport, shake hands with courteous old people, unveil a stone commemorative of his visit, and eat a state dinner with the elite in Government House. Although he will probably announce visa-free visits for Hong Kong residents after 1997 — as Peking wishes — LegCo members will batter him with demands for passports and visas for Hong Kong people who want to leave in 1997, including non-Chinese residents.

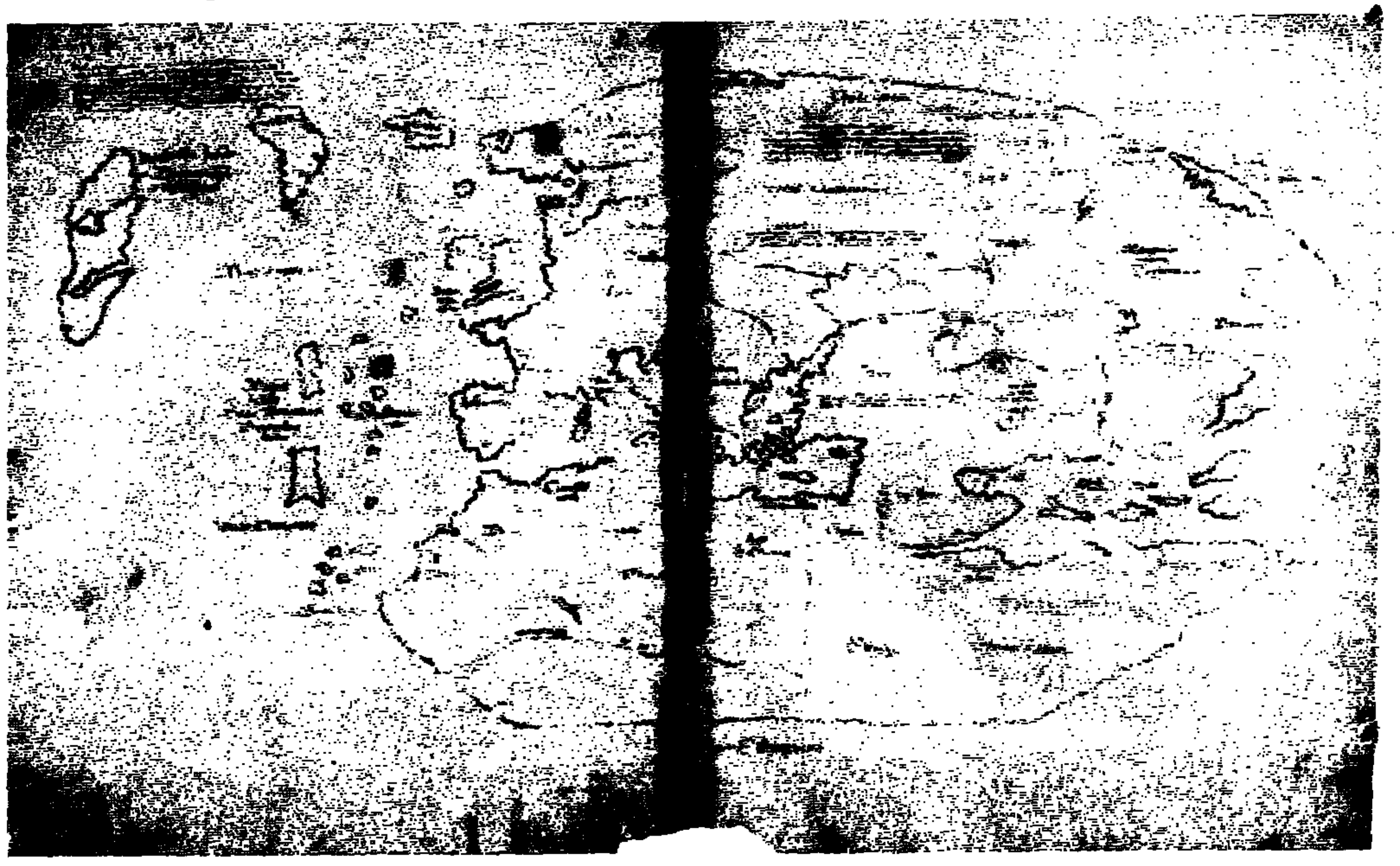
This trip will have done neither Hong Kong nor the Prime Minister much good. But there is another dimension which in the long run holds hope for Hong Kong. Before long this British Prime Minister may well lose an election. But as Mr and Mrs Major slip away, a new premier will move in. Labour ministers will enter their offices, where civil servants will tell them some of what they need to know. Britain will have voted for this and will know what to expect.

In Peking, Li Peng, too, is an unpopular prime minister, but for wholly different reasons: he was at Deng Xiaoping's right hand during the 1989 killings. There, by contrast, the medium-term future is unknowable. Crime is rampant, and official corruption so pervasive that Mr Li has warned that it could bring down the Communist Party.

Everything waits. No one knows what will happen when Deng Xiaoping "goes to see Marx". Not five minutes later, or five months, or five years. But Mr Major will live to see the party, whose power is already being eroded, either slink or be swept away. That is Hong Kong's hope.

Voyage of the Vikings

Authentication of the Vinland map vindicates Leif Ericsson



The Vinland map, from *The Vinland Map and the Tartar Relation* by R.A. Skelton, Thomas E. Marston and George D. Painter (Yale)

Who really, discovered America? We need to know because money is involved. Under American law, anybody who can prove he or she is one-sixteenth descended from the Eskimos who trekked through the Edmonton gap ten millennia before Christ can build a tax-free casino in Connecticut and become a millionaire. Political correctness declares this compensation for the fact that anyone with title to property in Manhattan once seized by 16th-century Dutch settlers can become Donald Trump. Who says history is bunk?

For many years this has left Leif Ericsson out in the cold. Son of Eric the Red, a Viking fugitive from Icelandic justice, Leif has reasonable claim to have beaten Columbus to be Europe's first "discoverer" of America. His excavated settlement of AD 1001 at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland will in five years have Norwegian nationalists celebrating in style. (The claim of Leif's precursor, Bjarni Herjolfsson, is moot: the saga of his earlier sighting of Canada makes no mention of a landing, although he told Leif of his discovery and sold him his longboat.) Leif's Vinland colony survived for two decades. Eskimo attacks, feuds and the onset of a mini ice-age forced its abandonment.

This has never qualified as "discovery" because no permanent colony was settled. There was no documented map and Viking public relations at the time were deplorable. Although a Bremen monk named Adam mentioned Vinland in a manuscript of 1070, his source was presumably the gossip of sea captains. To the American historian of exploration, Daniel Boorstin, Leif's colonists showed "physical but not spiritual courage. What they did in America did not change their own or anybody else's view of the world". Their astonishing voyages made no difference. To Boorstin, as to Renaissance Europe, it was Columbus not Ericsson who lit a candle over the Americas. Vikings, with their pagan gods and dreadful table manners, did not count.

Yet there was a map, and this month we are told it is authentic. In 1965 a "Vinland Map" arrived on the art market, apparently dated to half a century before Columbus. It showed a large island to the west of Greenland with inlets similar to those of Newfoundland, marked Vinlanda Insula. The map, apparently drawn in Basle in about 1440, was bought and donated to Yale University. Its provenance, said to be a Spanish monastery, was obscure. The American dealer's source died suddenly of a heart attack in 1968 before he could reveal what had been an oath of secrecy as to the previous owner.

This was suspicious. Worse was to come. Analysis by Chicago chemists declared the presence of titanium dioxide in the map's ink. This was claimed to indicate 20th-century ink. Though the parchment might be medieval, the map was a fake. The four original experts, two from the British Museum, who had authenticated the map were dumbfounded. The Vinland map seemed the cartographic equivalent of van Meegeren's Vermeer forgeries. Three of the four experts subsequently died. Leif Ericsson returned to the sagas.

Last month, the map was scientifically reinstated by the authorities at Yale. To the sole survivor of the four experts, the British Museum's George Painter, the Chicago discrediting of the Vinland map was nothing less than a "miscarriage of justice". More scientists have subjected the map to re-examination in a cyclotron, firing proton beams at it to yield precise X-ray measurements of its chemical particles. This has revealed that the amount of titanium in the ink is no different from that present naturally in other 15th-century inks.

Yale is now confident enough to republish the Vinland map, with an analysis of the controversy, in a new volume out this month. It is a masterly colloquium of the sciences — of geography, chemistry, linguistics, navigation, bibliography, even criminal detection — in pursuit of a single intellectual endeavour.

To George Painter, the new evidence unequivocally validates the map as "a major and authentic message from the Middle Ages on a hitherto unknown moment in the history of the world... It is a true voice from the past". The Vikings' claim not just to have reached America first but to have "discovered" it and disseminated the knowledge is now validated by more than the Norse sagas. As the book claims, Leif's expedition and its recording in map form "bridges the gap between two epochs of Atlantic discovery".

Simon Jenkins

The Vinland map is a saga in its own right. It shows how temporary are the "proofs" of formal science. It shows the judgments of historians as of no account when a chemist with a test-tube says "it cannot be", only to be countered by a physicist with a cyclotron who says "yes it can". The saga also illustrates the long academic neglect of medieval Northern Europe. Vinland has always been a problem for Columbus enthusiasts. Their hero meant to reach China and believed he had. He took Chinese interpreters on his expeditions and sent them inland in Cuba to interview the Great Khan. He died convinced that Cuba was in the East Indies. Yet he did not "discover" a new continent. He bumped into the Caribbean islands on his way somewhere else.

Leif Ericsson discovered Labrador and Newfoundland after being told of land west of Greenland by Herjolfsson. He had set out on a true act of exploration, born of a desire to expand Norse commerce and colonisation. He did not pretend to have discovered anywhere but a new land at a similar latitude to Iceland. Only the lack of weapons and the return of ice to Greenland put an end to his colony.

News of Vinland reached not only the authors of the Icelandic sagas but the seagoing communities of northern Europe. Bristol opened trade with Iceland in 1424 and its merchants sent ships in 1480 to find reputed islands and even mainland to the west of Ireland. It was their enterprise that persuaded the Venetian John Cabot to make Bristol his base for seeking a north-west passage to China in 1497.

When this "British Columbus" reached Newfoundland, he believed it was the same "mainland" said to have been seen by previous Bristol navigators. Recent documents suggest that Columbus knew of Bristol's discovery of a North Atlantic mainland before he set sail, as he may even have known of Vinland during a reputed visit to Iceland in 1477. But he was off to China.

The authors of the new edition show how wide was the likely knowledge of Leif Ericsson's discovery in medieval North Europe. If that knowledge could reach a Basle cartographer in the 1440s, it would have been familiar on the quays of Bristol long before Columbus. In taking his northern route to China, Cabot was not sailing blind. He was heading for an already discovered land. His landfall was to be the Norse America. As the 19th-century explorer Nansen said, the Vikings had set out "with conscious purpose... and had found land on the other side." This was true discovery. The authentication of the Vinland map is a thrilling moment in the history of geography.

If my name was Ericsson I would hotfoot it to Newfoundland and seek a gaming licence right away.

In the frame

THE TIMES DIARY

AS TELEVISION companies grapple for an interview given by James "the Cad" Hewitt about his relationship with the Princess of Wales, I have disturbing news about the cameraman behind the escapade.

This is not his first royal adventure. Some ten years ago, Sebastian Rich, then at ITN, was told to make a fly-on-the-wall documentary about the Prince and Princess of Wales, *In Public in Private*.

The first location was Kensington Palace, where he contrived to portray the young Princes as "normal children, fighting, tantrums — the lot". Within moments, he got what he was after. "I was filming Prince Harry playing with some toy cars on the floor when I became aware of a constant tugging at my ankle. It was becoming distracting to the point of annoyance," he explains in his book *People I Have Shot*.

"I left the camera running on my shoulder and peeped behind me to see Prince William running a toy car up and down my trousers. Without thinking, I removed the future King of England from my leg with a small cuff on the bottom." He says he was relieved not to have been sent to the Tower; but this latest project may yet see him incarcerated.

Weak hand

GIN AND TONICS were at half mast at bridge tables throughout the land as a mark of respect for the late Duke of Atholl, who was buried yesterday. The duke was, by all accounts, the most formidable captain yet of the Lords bridge team, with a tenure of more than 15 years.

His absence will be felt the more keenly after the death last August of Lord Lever, another respected player. The Commons team must now be in the ascendancy, but their lordships still have a trick up their sleeves in the professional bridge coach Marie-Thérèse Hill. "Their weakness tends to be bidding," she says firmly, "and I try to teach them the Stayman, the 'unusual no-trump' and the 'weak no-trump' techniques."

Right face

WHEN it comes to staff recruitment for the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich, I trust the process will pay attention to the politically correct mantra of the present day.

A memo dated 1951 reveals that the museum entertained a beauty parade as the best means of recruitment. "A pretty face always provokes a smile," it says. "It is a great fallacy to think, as many foreigners do, that British women are plain but sensible." The organisers had a certain type in mind. "It would be infinitely preferable to employ the cast of a Hollywood musical rather than a representative selection of Paris Metro ticket collectors."

● *Wild excitement has hit Eaton Square, where the Duke of Westminster and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber have their London homes. The rumour is that a member of the Rothschild family has agreed to pay £11 million for a house, which would make it the most expensive sold in London this year.*

Speak up

JOHN MAJOR may have picked up a useful tip for the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, during his trip to Bangkok. The Thai parliament, fed up with politicians going to sleep on its benches, has installed uncomfortable, low-backed chairs to discourage the somnolent.

The new hydraulic chairs have only just been tried out, but already there are complaints concerning the absence of neck support.

"Is this the queue to see the Millennium Fund cheque?"

Lang signs

NOBODY could have been more excited at the London Fashion Show at the Natural History Museum on Thursday night than the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang. He looked like a schoolboy with a pocket full of tuck after leaving the Scott Report behind for the joy of the catwalk.

He was accompanied in the audience by his younger daughter, Lucy — his elder daughter, Venetia, was working backstage as a stylist for the flamboyant milliner Phillip Treacy. And at odd intervals, when a fetching model came by, Lang whipped out his pocket camera like a hardened paparazzo. He was particularly taken by a young lady in the skimpiest of dresses wearing a black and gold titfer — the charitable said she was his niece.

P·H·S

The model who took Ian Lang's fancy

FAREWELL TO SHOPPING

The American election enters the wholesale stage

The primary contest in South Carolina today brings to an end one stage of the presidential contest and ushers in a new and dramatically different one. Until now the contenders have dealt with a string of elections in small states spaced out over the better part of a month. In Iowa, New Hampshire, and Arizona, personal campaigning is critical to success. Individuals with limited financial clout and sparse organisational resources, such as Pat Buchanan, can compensate by personal charisma, the exploitation of local political peculiarities, and assured attention from the local and national media.

This "retail politics", as Americans know it, has many charms — for voters, journalists and the owners of the shopping malls where so much of the trade takes place. But the number of delegates so far selected by it is tiny. Its chief purpose is not to decide who will be the nominee but to narrow down an opening field, this year initially nine strong, to a managable two or three credible contenders. South Carolina will complete that process. If Lamar Alexander fails to win here in his native South, his candidacy is unlikely to survive another week. If Pat Buchanan falls short in this state with a strong social conservative constituency, then he too will be implausible — despite his victory in New Hampshire.

As of next week the campaign consists almost exclusively of much larger states voting in clusters. It goes wholesale. Over two hundred delegates will be decided on Tuesday alone with a further 105 at stake in New York on Thursday. This pattern will continue via the South and Mid-West until March 26, when California — with ten per cent of the total at stake — should confirm the victorious candidate.

This new phase of the campaign cycle favours those with famous names, strong organisation and deep financial coffers. The Senate Majority Leader, Robert Dole, is the obvious beneficiary from such changed terrain but the mercurial publisher, Steve Forbes, will test how far a personal fortune and the flat tax idea can challenge that. Unless there is a striking result in South Carolina, it is unlikely that any other man can hope to rival these two.

This election is fought in even more challenging circumstances than usual. The decision of California legislators to move their primary from its traditional berth in June to late March prompted a stampede by other states towards the front of the electoral calender. That concentrated the Republican battle into a brief eight-week affair. Following this, though, is a further curiosity. The Republican Convention, which would normally have occurred in mid-July, has been moved to mid-August in an unprecedented move to avoid clashing for television and press attention with the Olympic Games that month in Atlanta.

This could cause real upset and inconvenience. Senator Dole, unlike Steve Forbes, has agreed to restrictions on his spending before that Convention and is fast approaching the $30 million ceiling. Meanwhile President Clinton, despite having no opposition in the Democratic Party primaries, is allowed to spend an equal amount leisurely over the next six months. Whoever emerges as the Republican candidate, probably Bob Dole, will have to find cheap forms of self-publicity between April and August.

To those Americans who prefer the language of Olympics to that of politics, the Republican nomination in 1996 has consisted of a long warm-up, varying hurdles, a sprint starting on Tuesday, a marathon until the convention, followed by a middle distance contest afterwards. American elections are a trial of endurance, a political pentathlon. And there is still little sign among the Republicans of what the chosen athlete will do with the torch.

IT'S A LOTTERY

The grant-giving can afford to become more flexible

For what we are about to receive, may the country be truly grateful. In two individual acts of bounteous philanthropy, the British Museum is to be given millions of pounds towards matching its Millennium Commission grant to redevelop its inner courtyard. Walter Annenberg, the former American Ambassador to Britain, is offering £6 million of his own money, and £4 million will come from the Sainsbury family. The Sainsburys' generosity is well appreciated; and Ambassador Annenberg has already won an honorary knighthood. He has given large sums to the National Gallery and to the restoration of St Paul's Cathedral.

But while these seem, and are, large sums of money, they do not begin to fulfil the British Museum's needs for its £72 million project, £30 million of which will come from the Millennium Commission. For no lottery funds come without strings. All grants have to be matched, to a greater or lesser degree, by money from elsewhere. The pot of philanthropy is only moderately flexible; the demands upon it are growing fast.

All the bodies that disburse lottery money, apart from the charities board, demand matching funding of between 10 per cent and 50 per cent of the cost of the project. This sounded quite sensible when it was first mooted. The principle was that if a project *could not win support* from its local community, then it did not deserve to be built. But in the rush to have developments completed by the year 2000, there is a danger of the country, and particularly London, being littered by half-finished, bankrupt building sites.

Local projects can often be half-financed locally. Councils are reasonably generous: Birmingham offered £50 million towards the city's millennium exhibition bid. But the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA) estimates that London alone will need £400 million of matching funding for all its projects, including the Royal Opera House, the Bankside Tate, Sadler's Wells, the British Museum, Kew Gardens and the Greenwich Millennium exhibition. Other highly deserving causes include a new education centre for conservation techniques at London Zoo. With no Greater London Council, the chances of local authority cash are small. Where is the money to come from?

Not from the private sector alone. British Telecom is the biggest sponsor of the arts in this country: it spends £1.8 million a year. Most companies would prefer to sponsor individual exhibitions or productions than to put money into a building project over which they have little control or sense of ownership. Trusts give a few million pounds a year each; but the total can surely not approach the amount needed.

So far, few are panicking. Only Sadler's Wells has admitted that it might struggle to meet its target. But there are ominously many development directors who claim to be "quietly confident" that they will reach their targets in order not to frighten the grant-giving authorities. This money will not materialise out of the air. There will undoubtedly be a crunch sometime in the next four years.

The lottery bodies would do better to anticipate this than to wait until their sponsored projects are on the brink of collapse. Already the system is a victim of its own success. The lottery has raised more money than expected, which has made more available for grants. But that in itself has made the matching funding requirements all the more onerous to meet. If the lottery continues to be as profitable as it is now for good causes, the grant bodies will be able to afford to be more flexible. Matching funding is a good idea in principle. It is beginning to break down in practice.

FRENCH POLISH

Flat-pack furniture is the popular new republican assembly

Our Business News reports today that MFI is doing brisk business in France. Here at home the furniture trade may be in the basement with the housing market: but our masters of cheap and cheerful flat-pack furniture, sold by mail order and delivered with testing instructions and the corners occasionally rounded, have built a market across the Channel. Though stagnant in the UK, MFI's sales are up by 26 per cent in France.

Protectors of French spelling can happily Frenchify MFI's initials, the origins of which are lost in the plasterboard of time, to *émefie*. But will they also be able to translate the Anglo-Saxon cries of the householder with reassembly rage? The DIY furniture people can respell *la ouigette* and *le scrûdrhiver* and *esprit de corps* (Superglue) for their French customers. But will they have the word for the bit that is left over after the *meuble* has been assembled? *Ç'est un* doddle perhaps?

MFI's invasion of the French market is a triumph for British enterprise. But this popularity of flat-pack furniture also challenges the old British inferiority complex about French sophistication and chic. In [illegible] of their pretensions, under that irritating Gallic veneer, the French turn out to be no better than we are. Their favourite names are not François and René but Kevin and Gary. Their typical breakfast is not *pain au chocolat* but *huit heures bix*. Woolworths has recently joined up with Darty to offer the French our native British pleasures of "pick 'n' mix" Liquorice Allsorts with humbugs. And the French *passion for tartan* is not clannish but populist, with patterns and fabrics and low prices that would astonish the kilt-makers of Edinburgh.

Sliced bread and instant coffee have become more convenient for French breakfasters than baguettes and *café au lait*. When French Ministers of Culture honour foreign film stars they go for the most demotic celebrities. Among the latest recipients of the French Order of Arts and Letters have been Sylvester Stallone (famous for his pecs not his circumflex), Sharon Stone (famous for crossing her legs), and the unequivocally and deliberately ordinary Kevin Costner.

The flip side of this French taste for the ordinary things of Anglo Saxon life is that they export Seines of Piat D'Or to our supermarkets, but would not dream of drinking it themselves. But in all other tastes including their furniture, the French are not as *très snob* as they pretend. Their tower block jungles are to British housing estates as Marseille to Versailles. And now their furniture comes from MFI. The question is: does it last as long as that popular Parisian snack, *le* M & S prawn *sandouiche*?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Misplaced secrecy on sale of arms

From Ms Jill Morrell and others

Sir, Interviewed on *Newsnight* on February 26, the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, invoked the suffering of the hostages held in Lebanon in the late 1980s as a reason for not informing Parliament about the sale of arms-manufacturing equipment to Iraq.

If public knowledge about the sales was deemed to be harmful to hostages held by Iranian-backed groups, why did the Government place their citizens in jeopardy in the first place by allowing those sales?

While the hostages were imprisoned in Lebanon the British Government claimed repeatedly in public that its attitude towards relations with Iran and Iraq was of a superior moral nature. It claimed to have adopted a neutral stance in the Iran-Iraq war, and maintained that Britain alone stood firm against doing deals to facilitate the hostages' release. Even talking to the Government of Iran was eschewed on these grounds. It is profoundly depressing to discover that all along it was business as usual, and that sales of arms-manufacturing equipment to Iraq were the predominant concern.

During discussions between the families and friends of the hostages and Foreign Office representatives, the Foreign Secretary at the time, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and his Foreign Minister, William Waldegrave, became angry at suggestions that they could be doing more to win the hostages' freedom.

Had the hostages' families and the British public been aware of our Government's tilt in favour of Iraq, the Foreign Secretary's reluctance to talk to the Iranians and the Iranians' reluctance to talk to the British Government would have been more clearly explained. The families would have suggested that favouring Iraq over Iran was placing the hostages in greater danger. On *Newsnight* Mr Lang made it plain that this was indeed the case.

For Mr Lang to claim moral justification for not fully disclosing the Government's policies towards Iraq, out of concern for the hostages in Lebanon, is ludicrous. The British Government's policy placed the hostages in jeopardy, not simply public disclosure of the situation. Mr Lang's claim is disingenuous, misleading and offensive.

Yours etc,
JILL MORRELL,
BRIAN KEENAN,
JOHN McCARTHY,
TERENCE McCARTHY,
CHRIS PEARSON (President, Friends of John McCarthy),
c/o Peters, Fraser and Dunlop,
503-4 The Chambers,
Lots Road, SW10.
February 27.

Scott documents

From Mr Peter V. Facey

Sir, The Scott inquiry showed that when the defence asks for government documents to assist its case the person who inspects those documents to see if they are relevant is the prosecution counsel. The prosecution, of course, has a duty to disclose unused material to the defence, but it does not follow that the prosecution should be involved in attempts by the defence to acquire *other material*, never considered by the prosecution, which happens to be held by Government.

In the Matrix Churchill case Scott found that the prosecution counsel "concentrated over much on the damage the documents might do to the prosecution case, rather than on their potential value to the defence" (G18.41). In the Ordtec case, Scott found that the prosecution counsel had a "responsibility to satisfy himself that adequate steps had been taken by Customs to identify documents . . . relevant to the defence" and that counsel "failed to discharge that responsibility" (J6.54).

One lawyer cannot serve two masters, and civilised societies the world over believe that there must be separate defence and prosecution counsels. Yet British practice violates this requirement because of a failure properly to distinguish between the role of the State as Crown prosecutor and its role as guardian of possibly secret documents.

Scott recognised this in part when he recommended that where the State is seeking to assert public interest immunity in court it should not be represented by prosecution counsel (K6.20). But he didn't go far enough, since PII does not arise unless documents are deemed to be relevant. Justice requires that the prosecution counsel should not be in any way involved in attempts by the defence to obtain government documents (other than unused prosecution material).

Yours faithfully,
P. V. FACEY,
Merry Trees, Hangersley Hill,
Ringwood, Hampshire.
February 28.

From Mr John Paxton

Sir, Imagine what the arrogance of the Government would have been over the Scott report if it had had a comfortable majority in the House.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PAXTON,
Moss Cottage,
Hardway, Nr Bruton, Somerset.
February 26.

Twists but no regret in royal divorce

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, Amid all the hand-wringing and rubbing of hands which you report (February 29) as greeting the final twists and turns of the royal divorce, it seems to me that one aspect of the matter continually escapes comment: I mean the idea that marriage is never — even for private citizens — exclusively a *private* affair.

The old Prayer Book puts it emphatically when it describes the setting of matrimony as being "in the sight of God and in the face of this congregation". You cannot go much more public than that.

And marriage *is* a societal event, affecting as it does two separate family networks, a whole gathering of friends and acquaintances, to say nothing of the community and neighbourhood of which this man and this woman, and the children they may beget, are a part.

Is it not curious that we have heard so little expression of regret from either party for the failure of a marriage which was in a very real sense ours as well as theirs?

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER FENTON,
The Leys, Aston, Kingsland,
Leominster, Herefordshire.
March 1.

From Mrs Kathleen Griffin

Sir, As a lifelong supporter of the monarchy I was amazed that the Queen, as head of the Church of England, should have urged the Prince of Wales to divorce.

It seems that the Princess has been foolish in some ways but the Buckingham Palace statement that "The Queen was most interested to hear that the Princess of Wales had agreed to a divorce . . ." contained not one word of sadness or regret and was cold in the extreme. Buckingham Palace has thrown away its best asset.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN GRIFFIN,
13 Brookmead Avenue, Bickley, Kent.
February 29.

Restoring faith in the teaching of RE

From Dr Robert Traer

Sir, On February 23 you reported that the Department of Education does not intend to inspect religious education *classes at Birchfield Primary School* in Birmingham, where parents may choose instruction in Islam rather than the regular religious education curriculum. Your editorial on the same day, "Islam at school", asserts that the withdrawal of Muslim children from RE "is an unhappy commentary on multifaith teaching and a challenge to the future of our multicultural society".

I believe the initiative taken in Birmingham does call into question the present approach to religious education, but I hardly think it endangers the future of the nation. I am not aware of any evidence that children in a multicultural society, who receive instruction only in their own religious tradition, are less able to get along with their neighbours than those who attend RE.

The crucial question, so long as religious education is mandatory, is whether RE lessons, as you suggest, "cheapen all faiths by vaunting none". This judgment strikes at the very heart of RE, which seeks to foster tolerance by teaching "about religions" rather than offering instruction in a religious faith. If objective teaching "about religions" undermines the faith of one or more of the religious communities in British society, then such a curriculum ought not to be continued.

Given the significance of this question, would it not be wise to urge research into the effects of RE? It may be that there are a variety of models of RE being used in the schools, and that identifying the views of parents with different religious and cultural background may be helpful in sorting out this issue.

Should teaching "about religions" generally be found wanting, as you suggest, then I believe there are two obvious choices. Education in a religious tradition might be provided in school for parents who choose it, if the religious community provides an instructor, as is being done now at Birchfield Primary School. Or religious instruction might be left to religious communities, as in many other countries.

In either case education in "a predominantly Christian Britain" need not, as you fear, "neglect its own inheritance". The role of Christian teaching and practice in fostering religious liberty, which you would have all children in Britain understand, can be included in their history and literature lessons.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT TRAER,
3 Carlton Road, Oxford.
February 23.

From Mrs S. Rose

Sir, You purport to respect all faiths. How? By "strengthening" Christianity in schools. Your tolerance, it seems, only extends to others from a position of presumptious superiority.

As a teacher, I feel it is definitely not my place to assign greater merit to one religion over another. That is, quite properly, up to the conscience of each parent.

I teach my pupils about all the world's faiths. When they leave school I would indeed feel a failure if they were ignorant of Lent, but equally so if they had no idea of the moral, spiritual and cultural significance of Ramadan or Passover or, for that matter, the Aboriginal Dreamtime (or is that too "superstitious" or "Stone Age" to qualify as a religion in your view?).

I worry about the religious ghetto mentality which leads from intolerance to racism. We must prepare our children to co-exist in a world which is culturally and religiously diverse — let's not neglect *anyone's* inheritance.

Yours faithfully,
SUSANNA ROSE,
22 West End Lane, Pinner, Middlesex.
February 27.

From Mr Robert Ashby

Sir, Your leading article notes the glories of our culture rooted in the two Testaments, via Milton and T. S. Eliot. Let us not forget the secular and non-Christian inspiration drawn on by Hobbes, Hume, Gibbon, Shelley, Byron, George Eliot, Hardy, Forster, Woolf, et al, of whom Britain should be equally proud.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ASHBY
(Executive Director),
British Humanist Association,
47 Theobald's Road, WC1.

Voices on 'Today'

From Mr Roger Mosey

Sir, You reported on February 26 that I want a younger audience and more women listeners to *Today* on Radio Four. But I've never said that, nor do I think in those terms: it's simply untrue that Peter Hobday's departure has anything to do with his age, class or accent.

As your entertaining pieces this week have shown, there are any number of reasons why presenters appeal or irritate. But, as someone who first worked on *Today* in the Timpson-Redhead era, I believe in the programme's traditions: and I'm confident that the Humphrys-MacGregor-Naughtie team, which has been in place for two years and will now be strengthened, is going to be one of the most successful ever.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER MOSEY
(Editor, *Today*),
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House, W1.
February 29.

From Mr Ian McDonald

Sir, If it is true that Peter Hobday is being booted off the *Today* programme against his wishes (letters, February 29) the powers behind the scenes had better be warned: I gave up smoking after nearly ten years' addiction and have been free of the weed for almost twenty years now. I am therefore quite capable of giving up *Today*.

All you need to do is listen to the news headlines at 7am and then switch off. There were no withdrawal symptoms this morning: just an unhurried tranquillity and seemingly far more time to get ready for work.

A combination of news headlines and then the more considered analysis and varied articles in *The Times* will make a satisfactory change from *an increasingly unsatisfactory Today* programme.

Yours sincerely,
IAN McDONALD,
Hillview,
The Bank, Bidford-on-Avon,
Alcester, Warwickshire.
February 29.

Mysterious ways

From Mrs Gwenda Rudkin

Sir, Mr David Ballantyne's letter of February 29 about women playing God brings to mind an old Jewish proverb: "God could not be everywhere, so He made mothers".

Yours faithfully,
GWENDA RUDKIN,
Arthurs, Llanberis, Gwynedd.
March 1.

Weekend Money letters, page 42

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Paying for opera

From Mr Bryan Marson-Smith

Sir, Bernard Levin ("Come into the Garden", February 23) is of course entitled to his views on prices at Covent Garden; but having seen how the management of the Royal Opera House operates, as shown recently in BBC2's *The House*, I should wish there to be no public money spent on it, whatever the consequences of that might be.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN MARSON-SMITH,
Fairseat,
Gracious Lane,
Sevenoaks, Kent.
February 26.

Bacon not artist of his 'self-portrait'?

From Mr Richard Shone

Sir, Wide publicity has been given recently to the "discovery" of a so-called self-portrait by Francis Bacon dated to c1930 when the artist was 21 (reports and leading article, February 2). The work in question is currently on view (to March 3) in the Fine Art and Antiques Fair at Olympia (report, Fine Arts, February 26).

The Winsor & Newton label on the reverse of the "Rathbone" canvas board on which the work was painted bears the pencil inscription "for Francis Bacon". This could mean either that the work was given to Bacon, perhaps as a portrait of him by a fellow artist; or, as has been claimed, that the note was written by the retailer reserving the board for the painter — something highly unlikely as such boards were widely available and manufactured in their thousands.

On the same label is pencilled the price 1s 6d. A Rathbone board of 16 x 13in (so stamped on the reverse) was not available until 1937 at the earliest. It was priced 1s 4d in the 1938 Winsor & Newton catalogue, thus allowing a reasonable mark-up of tuppence. Therefore this work, whoever it is by, cannot have been painted earlier than 1937.

On stylistic and technical grounds, it is inconceivable that it could have been painted by Bacon after his known works of 1933-36. By dating it *to c1930, even the exhibitors concede* this. That it is a work from Bacon's hand, as several historians and critics have accepted, is, on the evidence given here, out of the question.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHONE,
87 Holbein Place, SW1.
February 28.

Hobby of kings

From Mr Gavin Littaur

Sir, Your leading article on philately (February 26) mentions a stamp collector in 1841.

Dr John E. Gray, Keeper of Natural History at the British Museum, apparently purchased a block of Penny Blacks on May 1, 1840, the first day of issue, and preserved it as a memento. He added to his collection as other stamps were issued and published one of the earliest stamp catalogues in 1863.

The Queen appears not to share her father's and grandfather's zest for philately. Perhaps her disenchantment is due to the ever-increasing proliferation of substandard stamp issues which bear our Sovereign's head.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN LITTAUR,
24 Stormont Road, Highgate, N6.
February 26.

Brocket title

From Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor

Sir, In the course of a recent speech in Birmingham attacking the Conservatives as the party of privilege (report, February 12), Mr Tony Blair asserted that "the first Lord Brocket bought the title from Lloyd George".

Leaving aside the intended sneers, Mr Blair's remark is inaccurate. The Brocket peerage was not created until 1933, by which date my grandfather had been out of office for more than ten years.

It is more likely therefore that the person responsible was one of Mr Blair's predecessors as Leader of the Labour Party — to wit, Mr J. Ramsay MacDonald.

Yours sincerely,
LLOYD GEORGE of DWYFOR,
House of Lords.

Many thanks

From Mr Fred Mann

Sir, To extract a letter of thanks (letters, February 16, 20, 23, 24, 28), one could follow the example of Andrew Carnegie, as recounted in Joseph Frazier Wall's 1970 biography.

When his sister-in-law complained to him that her son, his namesake, never wrote to her while he was away at college, Mr Carnegie confidently bet her ten dollars that he could get an answer by return mail.

The wager was accepted, and Mr Carnegie sat down and wrote a newsy *letter to young Andrew*, ending with a postscript that he was enclosing a $10 bill as a little gift. But he deliberately omitted to enclose the money.

Within two days there was a letter of thanks — pointing out Mr Carnegie's "mistake". This was of course rectified with the winnings from the bet.

Yours sincerely,
FRED MANN,
13 Park Place, Dunfermline, Fife.
February 26.

It just seems like it?

From Mr Frank Lewis

Sir, It is not surprising that Mrs Pavarotti should be getting a little weary of her husband's activities. After all, according to your report (February 29), she has been married to him for five years longer than he has to her.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK LEWIS,
Mallans, Main Road,
Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent.
February 29.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 1: His Excellency Señor Roy Chaderton-Matos was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Venezuela to the Court of St James's.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The following were received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr Graham Boyce (the State of Kuwait), Mr Andrew Green (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Mr Christopher Hum (the Republic of Poland). Mrs Boyce, Mrs Green and Mrs Hum were also received by The Queen.

The following were received in audience by Her Majesty upon their appointment as British High Commissioners: Mr David Tatham (the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka) and Mr Peter Young (the Commonwealth of the Bahamas). Mrs Tatham and Mrs Young were also received by The Queen.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty, held an Investiture at Cardiff Castle this morning.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne at the Funeral of Colonel the Earl of Stair (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wigtown and Gold Stick for Scotland) which was held at Inch Parish Church, Castle Kennedy, today.

The Princess Royal was represented by Miss Christian Dalrymple-Hamilton.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was represented by Mr David Bertie.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Major Edward Orr Ewing.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Major Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Younger.

The Queen was represented by the Marquess of Abergavenny KG at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, LG which was held in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, West Sussex, this afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by the Lord Kingsdown KG.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Gerald Ward.

The Princess Royal was represented by the Hon Verona Kitson.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland.

March 1: The Princess Royal today visited Edinburgh and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning visited the new Scottish divisional office for Save the Children Fund Scotland at Haymarket House, Clifton Terrace.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Victim Support Scotland, later attended the Council Meeting at 14 Frederick Street and visited the Lothian Office, 2 Nicholson Square.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Butler Trust, this afternoon visited the Scottish Prison Service Headquarters, Calton House, 5 Redheughs Rigg.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this evening attended the Private Appeal Dinner at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres at the Funeral of Colonel the Earl of Stair which took place at Inch Parish Church, Castle Kennedy, Wigtownshire, today.

Her Majesty was represented by the Duke of Grafton, KG at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, LG which was held in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, West Sussex, this afternoon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 1: The Prince of Wales today visited Cardiff and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR). His Royal Highness this morning visited the Welsh Office, Cathays Park.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Youth Business Trust, this afternoon visited Panasonic's European Television division to celebrate the Trust's Tenth Anniversary and Panasonic's first Twenty Years in Wales.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 1: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester received the Rt Hon Sir Michael and Lady Hardie Boys when His Royal Highness, Grand Prior, Order of St John, invested Sir Michael as a Knight of Grace and as the new Prior of the St John Priory in New Zealand, and Lady Hardie Boys as a Commander Sister of the Order.

YORK HOUSE
March 1: The Duchess of Kent attended, and also represented the Duke of Kent, at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, LG, which was held in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, this afternoon.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 1: Princess Alexandra this afternoon attended the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, LG which was held in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, West Sussex.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v England international match at Murrayfield at 1.10.

Weekend events

TODAY: The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

TOMORROW: The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.

Giggleswick School

13+ Scholarships

The Headmaster has pleasure in announcing the following Awards:

Academic: James Horrox, Aysgarth; Timothy Hazlehurst and Timothy Scirrow, Malsis; Thomas Edwards, Terra Nova; Iqbal Mohammad, Whitby Community College; Tristan Christian, Laura Crossland and Charlotte Jeffries, Catteral Hall.

Art: Adam Moloney, Malsis; Guy Robinson, Grosvenor House; Sophie Burr, St Martin's Nawton.

Sport: Thomas Vaughan and Philip Oliphant, Catteral Hall; Gavin Kellett and Christopher Woolsey, Giggleswick.

Design: Nick Bamber, Giggleswick.

General Distinction: Edward Pickles, Chorister School, Durham; Carl Massingham, Cundall Manor; Andrew Gill, Hurworth House; Ben Thornton, Malsis; Nicholas Greenhalgh and Jessica Doyle, Catteral Hall.

Continuation Scholarships have been awarded to the following: Daniel Houlbrook, Grosvenor House and Thomas Bailey, Catteral Hall.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for March was won with bond number 3ITS 045531. The winner lives in Lincolnshire, and has a bond holding of £14,080.

Service dinners

Royal Marines

Major-General John Hardy presided at the annual Royal Marines Officers' Dinner Club dinner held last night at Lincoln's Inn. Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Captain Malcolm Carver, RN, and Surgeon Captain Rick Jolly, RN, were among the guests.

211 (South Wales) Battery RA (V)

The Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and Colonel Neil Jones were the guests of honour at the annual St David's Day dinner of 211 (South Wales) Battery Royal Artillery (V) held last night at Raglan Barracks, Newport. Major R.W. Wilson, Battery Commander, presided.

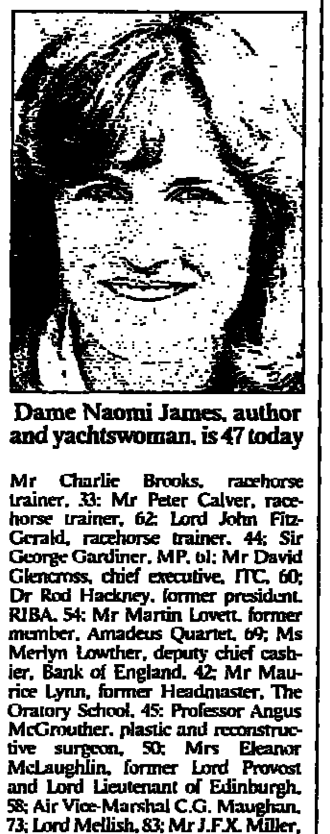
HQ Logistics Command

Officers of Headquarters Logistics Command dined out Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock, Commander-in-Chief, Logistics Command, and Lady Alcock at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at Brampton Park to mark his retirement from the RAF. Air Vice-Marshal C.G. Terry was the principal host and Wing Commander R.A. Laybourn presided.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Miss Pat Arrowsmith, pacifist, 66; Miss Margaret Barbieri, ballerina, 49; Mr Harry Blech, violinist and conductor, 86; Lady Moyra Browne, former superintendent-in-chief, St John Ambulance Brigade, 78; Sir Leonard Crossland, former chairman, Ford Motor Company, 82; Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Darlington, 86; Lord Elton, 66; Mr John Gardner, composer, 79; Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union, 65; Captain Sir Donald Gosling, RNR, joint chairman, National Car Parks, 67; Mr R.E. Groves, former chairman, Mayer International, 76; Lord Howie of Troon, 72; Cardinal Basil Hume, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, 73; Mr Robert Lloyd, opera singer, 56; Mr Peter Longman, director, Theatres Trust, 50; Sir John Manduell, composer, 68; Mr Hugh Monro, Headmaster, Clifton College, 46; Mr Lou Reed, rock singer, 53; Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, 67; Mr Robert Simpson, composer, 75; Mr John Tusa, former managing director, BBC World Service, 60; Mr J.P.R. Williams, former rugby player and orthopaedic surgeon, 47; Mr Ian Woosnam, golfer, 38.

TOMORROW:
The Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, 62;



Dame Naomi James, author and yachtswoman, is 47 today

Mr Charlie Brooks, racehorse trainer, 33; Mr Peter Calver, racehorse trainer, 62; Lord John FitzGerald, racehorse trainer, 44; Sir George Gardiner, MP, 61; Mr David Glencross, chief executive, ITC, 60; Dr Rod Hackney, former president, RIBA, 54; Mr Martin Lovett, former member, Amadeus Quartet, 69; Ms Merlyn Lowther, deputy chief cashier, Bank of England, 42; Mr Maurice Lynn, former Headmaster, The Oratory School, 45; Professor Angus McGrouther, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, 50; Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, former Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of Edinburgh, 58; Air Vice-Marshal C.G. Maughan, 73; Lord Mellish, 83; Mr J.F.X. Miller, Headmaster, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, 46; Mr Stephen Morrison, managing director, London Weekend Television, 49; Mr Peter O'Sullevan, racing commentator, 78; Sir Mark Prescott, racehorse trainer, 48; Miss Miranda Richardson, actress, 38; Mr Ronald Searle, artist and cartoonist, 76; the Earl of Southesk, 35; Lord Templeman, 76; Miss Fatima Whitbread, athlete, 35.

Memorial service

Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG

The Queen was represented by the Marquess of Abergavenny, KG, the Duke of Edinburgh by Lord Kingsdown, KG, and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother by the Duke of Grafton, KG, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG, held yesterday in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady and Saint Philip Howard, Arundel, West Sussex.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Gerald Ward, the Princess Royal by the Hon Verona Kitson, Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, and the Duke of Kent by the Duchess of Kent.

Princess Alexandra attended.

The Bishop of Arundel and Brighton and the Bishop of Chichester officiated. The Bishop of Horsham read the Gospel. The Dean of Chichester, Canon Anthony Whale, Canon Dermod Fogarty, the Rev Philip Tout and Canon Michael Weaver said prayers.

The Earl of Ancram and Group Captain Anthony Mumford, sons-in-law, read the lessons. The Hon Peter Strutt, half-brother, Lady Clare Kerr and Lady Mary Kerr, granddaughters, gave readings. Sir Roger Gibbs gave an address.

The Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, the High Sheriff of West Sussex and the High Sheriff of East Sussex attended. Among others present were:

Lady Mary Mumford and the Countess of Ancram (daughters), Sir Colin Cowdrey and Lady Herries of Terregles and Mr Nigel and Lady Sarah Clutton (sons-in-law and daughters), Lady Helen Vivian Smith (step-sister), Lady Winefride Freeman and Lady Katherine Phillips (sisters-in-law), the Hon Mrs Peter Strutt, Mrs Elizabeth Macdonald-Buchanan, Mr and Mrs Michael Sefi, Miss Clare Sefi, Mr Christopher Strutt, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Strutt, Mr Michael Strutt, the Hon Richard and Mrs Strutt, Lord Aberdare, Mr and Mrs Colin Malcolmson, the Duke of Norfolk, KG, and the Duchess of Norfolk, the Earl and Countess of Arundel and Surrey, Lady Miranda Emmet, Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard, Lord and Lady Martin Fitzalan Howard, Lord and Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox, the Earl of Perth, Lady Gillian Anderson, Lady Maryel de Wichfeld, Viscount Strathallan, the Hon James and Mrs Drummond, Mrs Rowena Malcolm-Green.

The Duke and Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, Mary Duchess of Roxburghe, Anne Countess De La Warr, Viscountess Cowdray, Viscount Leverhulme, KG, Lord and Lady Egremont, Lady Kingsdown, Lord and Lady Manton, Lord Vestey (British Horse Society), Sir Peter Hordern, MP, and Lady Hordern, the Hon Sir Richard and Lady Luce, Sir William and Lady Purchas, Lady Mary Rose Williams, Lady Rupert Nevill, the Hon Lady Bartlelot, the Hon David and Mrs Bigham, the Hon Mrs Benjamin.

The Hon Mrs Nona Byrne, the Hon Mrs Anne Money-Coutts, the Hon Robin Pleydell-Bouverie and Mrs Pleydell-Bouverie (SSAFA, Arundel Group), the Hon Julia Stonor, the Hon Mark and Mrs Wyndham, Lady Dundas, Sir Giles and Lady Loder, Vera Lady Newson-Smith, Lady (Nicholas) Beaumont, Sir Piers Bengough (Ascot Authority) and Lady Bengough, Lady (Simon) Bland, Lady Bowes-Lyon, Lady (Lindsay) Bryson, Lady (Hugh) Brassey, Sir Arthur and Lady Collins, Sir Edward Ford, Rear-Admiral Sir John and Lady Garnier.

Sir Roger Gibbs, Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts, Air Marshal Sir Maurice and Lady Heath, Sir Peter Hope (Order of Malta) and Lady Hope, Lady Mackintosh, Lady (Michael) Marshall, Dame Mona Mitchell, Lady Morrison-Scott, Dame Alison Munro, Lady (Bryan) Reynolds, Sir Patrick Symons (Chichester Priority Services NHS Trust), Sir Simon Towneley, Lady (Philip) Ward, Sir Michael Wilford (Japan Animal Welfare Society), Mr and the Hon Mrs David Blacker, Mr Peter and Lady Elizabeth Oldfield.

Chairman and members of West Sussex County Council, Chief Executive and Clerk to W Sussex Lieutenancy, the Mayor, Town Clerk and members of Arundel Council, Mayor and Town Clerk of Lewes, Chairman and Chief Exec of Chichester Council, Mayor of Chichester, Mayor of Crawley and Chief Exec of Crawley Council, Chief Exec and Chairman of Horsham Council.

Mrs Tikki Adorian, Mr and Mrs Mike Aitkin-Berry, Mr Peter August, Mrs John Barclay, Mrs Chris Barrett, Mrs Peter Beckwith-Smith, Mrs J Bond, Mr and Mrs David Bowerman, Mr David Bowes-Lyon, Mr and Mrs Hugh Braden, Mr and Mrs G Brandon, Wing Commander G H Briggs, Mrs Joyce Brissenden, Major and Mrs J Bromhead, Major-General and Mrs Ronald Buckland, Mr Christopher Buckle, Brigadier and Mrs P E Budd, Mr and Mrs Michael Bull, Mr James Burns, Mr and Mrs Richard Burton, Major E A Calvert, Mr Jack Campbell, Mr and Mrs Peter Cator.

Mr D Chadwick, Mr and Mrs Robin Clarke, Mrs Christine Clothier, Mr Ronald Coaker, Mr Charles Coaker, Mr Tim Coghlan, Major Nico Collin, Mr and Mrs Mike Colman, Miss Lyn Constantine, Major-General and Mrs John Cowley, Mrs Stella Cresswell-Wall, Mr Robert Cushing, Mr Colin Dickens, Mr Nigel Draffan, Mrs Marybelle Drummond, Mr and Mrs John Dunlop, Mr and Mrs Anthony Eden, Mrs Margaret Edgecombe-Rendle, Mr and Mrs Stanley Elliott, Mr and Mrs Ivor Faulconer, Mr Peter Fenwick, Mrs Carole Ferguson-Ball, Dr Michael Field.

Mr and Mrs Valentine Fleming, Group Captain and Mrs Ronnie Ford, Mr and Mrs D G Fowler-Watt, Mr and Mrs Louis Freedman, Dr and Mrs Ivor Gabe, Mr William Gammie, Mrs H Gestetner, Miss Elizabeth Gilliatt, Mrs Mary Godfrey, Mr and Mrs John Goldsworthy, Mr Harry Goring, Mr Roger Griffiths, Miss Caroline Griffiths, Mr and Mrs David Groombridge, Mr and Mrs Christopher Hall, Mr and Mrs R Hannant, Mr Ben Hanbury, Mrs Penny Hardwick, Mr T G Harrison, Mr and Mrs Michael Hart, Mr and Mrs Oliver Hawkins, Mr and Mrs Ken Hawksfield.

Dr and Mrs Alan Hayes, Mrs Pat Hay-Will, Mr and Mrs E Healey, Mr and Mrs George Hill, Mrs Pamela Holdsworth, Mr David Hopkinson and Mrs Prudence Hopkinson, Mrs Alison Hunter-Gordon, Mrs G R Hurle-Hobbs, Mr Alex Hutchinson, Major Derek Ide-Smith, Mr and Mrs Stanley Jay, Mr and Mrs Peter Johnson, Mr and Mrs Malcolm Kimmins, Mrs Elizabeth Kindersley, Mr and Mrs John Knight, Mrs Honor Laker, Mrs H M Llardet, Mrs Margaret Lister-Williams, Mr and Mrs Norman Liverman, Mr Angus Lloyd.

Major S J A Lloyd, Mr and Mrs David Lock, Mrs John Lock, Mr and Mrs Martyn Long, Mr and Mrs Peter Longley, Mr and Mrs Charles Lucas, Mr and Mrs Jonathan Lucas, Mr and Mrs Brendan McCarten, Father M Magenniss, Mr N Maxwell Stuart, Mrs Alan Mays Smith, Mr and Mrs Eddie Monaghan, Mr and Mrs Chris Monaghan, Mr Jim Myerscough, Mrs Kitty Myerscough, Mrs Roderic More O'Ferrall, Miss Catherine Murphy O'Connor, Mr and Mrs Thomas Murray, Mr Peter Nelson, Mr and Mrs Tim Neligan, Mr Vic Norton, Colonel and Mrs P S Newton, Mrs W Oakley, Miss Andrea Oakley, Major-General and Mrs C E Page, Capt and Mrs H B Parker, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles.

Major and Mrs Christo Philipson, Mrs Lillian Phillips, Mr and Mrs Roland Pickersgill, Mrs Theresa Purdy, Mr and Mrs Bob Puttock, Mrs Dot Puttock, Mrs David Puttock, Miss Jessie Puttock, Mrs Peggy Puttock, Mr John Rank, Dr John Martin Robinson, Mr David Rogers, Mr Percy Rogers, Mr Anthony Ruddock, Mr Geoffrey Runacres, Mrs Rosemary Satterthwaite, Mr and Mrs Donald Scott, Mr Simon Scrope, Major Bruce Shand, Mrs John Sheffield, Mr and Mrs Maurice Sherborne, Sister Anastasia, Sister Chiarca Hatton Hall, Sister Damian.

Sister Dolores, Sister Giles, Sister Marie Therese, Sister Shanley, Sister Sheila Sumner, Mr and Mrs Bill Skelton, Mrs G R Soley, Mr and Mrs J F Somerset, Mr and Mrs D A Squire, Mrs Rose Stacey, Mr Peter Stewart, Mrs William Straker-Smith, Mr Philip Stroud, Capt S A Stuart, Mr and Mrs Michael Sugden, Mrs Valerie Sutton, Mr and Mrs Lee Taylor, Mr Philip Taylor, Mr and Mrs Barry Theobald-Hicks, Mr Richard Turner, Mr Graham Turner, Capt and Mrs Basil Tyler, Mr and Mrs Alan Wadey, Mrs Mary Wadey-Green, Mr and Mrs Kenneth Wagg, Miss Iona Wake-Walker, Mr and Mrs Ian Walter.

Mrs Fulke Walwyn, Mr Vincent Waterhouse, Major and Mrs John Watson, Mrs M Wellbeloved, Mr and Mrs Leslie Weller, Mr Gordon Wheatland, Mr and Mrs Peter Willett, Mr Bob Wilmer, Mr Michael Wilson, Mr and Mrs J M Winfield Digby, Mr John Woodcock, Mrs Joy Woolley, Miss Jane Wykeham-Musgrave, Mr and Mrs C Wylie, Colonel and Mrs Eddie Yorke.

Chairman, Chichester Bench, chairman, Chichester Festival Theatre Trust and Mrs Evershed-Martin, chairman and MFH Chiddingfold Hunt, Chief Constable, W Sussex, Clerk to Justices, W Sussex, Chairman, Crawley Bench, Clerk, E Sussex Lieutenancy, Cncl W Sussex, ESU.

Chairman, Ferring Country Centre and Mrs Bougaton-Leigh, chairman, Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club and Mrs Doggart, Governor, Ford Prison, Chairman, Horsham Bench, Chief Exec and staff members, King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, Clerk, Magistrates' Court Committee, W Sussex, Chief Exec, Mid Sussex Bench, Chairman, Mid Sussex Cncl, Chief Exec, Queen Alexandra Hosp Home.

County President, Royal British Legion (Sussex Cncl) with other branches; Chairman, Steyning Bench, President, Sussex Martlets and Mrs Harrison, Chief Exec, TCCB, Vice-President, W Sussex Assn for Blind, Chairman, W Sussex Assn for Disabled, Chairman, W Sussex Cncl for Voluntary Youth Services, Chairman, Worthing Bench, Chief Exec, Worthing Cncl, headteacher, Palantine School, Worthing, Chief Exec, Youth Clubs, Sussex.

Representatives of Adur Cncl, Alpress and Partners, Angmering Chorale, Angmering School, Angmering Society, Arun Cncl, Arun Sports Assn for Disabled, Arun Choral Soc, Arun Cncl for Voluntary Services, Arundel Bench, Arundel Bowling Club, Arundel Brownies, Arundel Castle Fund for Sussex Charities, Arundel Chamber of Commerce, Arundel C of E Primary School, Arundel Cricket Club (Town), Arundel Fire Station, Arundel Flower Show, Arundel Gardens Assn.

Arundel Green Lane WI, Arundel and Dist Hospital, Arundel and Littlehampton Scout Assn, Arundel Museum Soc, Arundel Players (Priory House), Arundel Priory, St Philip's RC School, Arundel, Arundel School of Dancing, Arundel Soc, Arundel Youth Club, branches of British Heart Foundation; branches of British Red Cross; British Sporting Art Trust, Burpham Stoolball Club, Bury Village, CARE (Walberton), Chailey Heritage, Chichester Canine Soc, Cluttons, Clymping Animal Sanctuary, W Sussex Community Minibus Assoc, Coopers & Lybrand, Crawley and Horsham Hunt, Crypt Foundation, Disabled Housing Trust, Battersea Dogs' Home, Dovetail, E Preston and Kingston Bowls Club.

Friends of Worthing Museum and Art Gallery, Friends of Young Deaf People, Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust, Arundel Inner Wheel, I Zingari, Lavinian Club, League of Friends, Horsham Hospital, Leonard Cheshire Foundation, *Littlehampton Gazette*, Littlehampton Golf Club, Littlehampton Musical Comedy Soc, Littlehampton Housing Soc, Mary How Trust, MCC, National Canine Defence League, National Gardens Scheme.

Nautical Training Corps, branches of NSPCC, Petworth Cottage Nursing and Convalescent Home, branches of Riding for the Disabled, Chigwell Pony Riding for Disabled Trust, Queen's English Society, *Racing Post*, branches of RNLI, Arundel Rotary Club, Rowland Rank Centre, Shoreham branch, Royal Coll of Midwives, Royal Lifesaving Soc, Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

The RNR, Royal Sussex Regimental Assn, RSPCA, SCOPE, Chichester Festival Theatre, St Aloysius College, Glasgow, Barnabas Hospice, Worthing, Schroder Investment Management, St Leger Trust, St Peter and St James Hospice, SE TA&VR Assn, S of Eng Agricl Soc, Spinal Injuries Assn, NAFAS, Sussex Golf Union, Sussex Rifle Assn, Sussex Folk Assn.

Sussex West Guides, Sussex Young Cricketers, Tarner Home, W Sussex Club for Disabled Men, *West Sussex Gazette*, Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust, Witham Weld, W Sussex County Branch, WRVS, Worthing Musical Comedy Soc and Worthing Music Festival Assn.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr S.R. Bland
and Miss L.J. Ashley**

The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr Bernard and Mrs Diane Bland, of Barlestone, Warwickshire, and Lucy, only daughter of Mr Peter Ashley, of Bedford Park, London, and Mrs Kathy Ashley, of Stoneygate, Leicester.

**Mr J.E. Burkimsher
and Miss D.A. Walker**

The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Max Burkimsher, of Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, and Debbie, daughter of Dr and Mrs Angus Walker, of Spratton, also in Northamptonshire.

**Mr W.P. Godfrey
and Miss S. Radclyffe**

The engagement is announced between Bill, son of Mr and Mrs John Godfrey, of Neen Sollars, Shropshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Captain and Mrs Charles Radclyffe, of Lew, Oxfordshire.

**Mr D.R. Graham
and Miss T. Bass**

The engagement is announced between Donald, third son of Mr and Mrs L.W. Graham, of Edinburgh, and Toni, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J. Bass, of Barnet, Hertfordshire.

**Mr A.H. Kooros
and Miss S.M. Pancholi**

The engagement is announced between Amir, younger son of Dr and Mrs Khosrow Kooros, of Tehran, Iran, and Sneha, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Manhar Pancholi, of Finchley, London.

**Dr J.A.J. Raiman
and Miss C.M. Nielsen**

The engagement is announced between Julian, youngest son of Dr and Mrs John Raiman, of London, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Nielsen, of Wanganui, New Zealand.

**Mr A. Scotts
and Miss A.C. Sandberg**

The engagement is announced between Anthony, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Scotts, of Sydney, and Alice, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Sandberg, of London.

**Mr J.M. Tattersall
and Miss J.L. Douthwaite**

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs C.J. Tattersall, of Stratford on Avon, and Joanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Edmondson, of Leeds.

**Mr A.G. Thompson
and Señorita I.M. Perea
Del Pino**

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Derek Thompson, of Great Waldingfield, Suffolk, and Inés Maria, eldest daughter of Señor Angel Perea and Señora Inés Del Pino, of Madrid.

**Mr P.F. Touche
and Miss L.J. Coolidge**

The engagement is announced between Peter Francis, youngest son of Sir Anthony and Lady Touche, of Stane House, Ockley, Surrey, and Laura Jefferson, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas R. Coolidge, of Red Fox Farm, Falls Village, Connecticut.

Dinners

St David's Day London Welsh Celebration

The Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies, was the guest of honour at a St David's Day London Welsh Celebration dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Mr D. Garfield Davies presided. Mr Huw Edwards proposed to toast to the Immortal Memory of St David. Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, Mr John Humphrys and Dame Gwyneth Jones, who also sang, were the other speakers.

Michael Lewis, QC

The chambers of 3, Hare Court gave a dinner last night in Grays Inn in honour of Michael Lewis, QC, to mark his retirement as Head of Chambers. He will continue in full-time practice as before.

Service reception

RAF Strike Command

Air Vice-Marshal T.B. Sherrington, Air Officer Administration, HQ RAF Strike Command, received the guests at a ladies guest night reception of RAF Strike Command held last night at RAF High Wycombe. Wing Commander C.D. Evans presided.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Robert II, King of Scotland 1371-90, Paisley, 1316; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Exeter, 1545; Kurt Weill, composer, Dessau, Germany, 1900; Karen Carpenter, singer, New Haven, Connecticut, 1950.

DEATHS: John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, London, 1791; Horace Walpole, novelist and historian, Twickenham, 1797; D.H. Lawrence, novelist, Vence, France, 1930; Howard Carter, archaeologist, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun (1922), London, 1939.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Sir William Davenant, Poet Laureate 1638-68, Oxford, 1606; Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, Edinburgh, 1847; Sir Henry Wood, conductor and co-founder of the Promenade Concerts, London, 1869; Jean Harlow, actress, Kansas City, 1911.

DEATHS: Robert Adam, architect and designer, London, 1792; Nicolai Gogol, novelist and dramatist, Moscow, 1852; Danny Kaye, actor, Los Angeles, 1987.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday in Lent

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, O Lord increase our faith (Loosemore); 3.30 Choral E.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Hide not thou thy face (Farrant), Miserere mei (Byrd), The Provost; 4 Choral E, Canon R Lindley.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, An heart that's broken (Oldroyd); 10.30 Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), The Provost; 3.30 Choral E & Installation, The Bishop of Blackburn.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch & H Baptism; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Super flumina (Palestrina), The Dean; 3.15 E, Misere mei (Allegri); 6.30 Compline, The Archdeacon.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Canon R Chapman; 3 E, Wash me throughly (Wesley).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon B Thompson; 11.15 Choral M, Remember not Lord (Purcell), Canon D Knight; 6 Choral E, The Provost.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, O God that no time doest despise (Pearson), Rev R Robinson; 11 S Euch, O quam Gloriosum (Victoria), The Chancellor; 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Miserere (Palestrina), Canon Ward; 11.15 S Euch, Tantum ergo (de Severac), The Dean; 6 E & Prayers.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Hide not thou thy face from us (Hilton), Canon R Coppin; 11.15 HC, A Litany (Tallis), Canon S Redley; 3.30 E; 8 University Chaplaincy Lecture.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Thou knowest Lord (Purcell), Canon Inge; 3.45 E, I love the Lord (Harvey).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Sir J Alleyne; 9.45 S Euch, O taste and see (Williams), The Dean; 11.15 M, Drop drop slow tears (Walton); 6.30 E, Warum toben die Helden (Mendelssohn).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Thy word is a lantern (Purcell), The Provost; 4 Choral E, Canon C Dobbin.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Bell Amfitrit altera (Lassus), O living bread (Whitlock), Rev Dr G Wakefield; 3.30 E.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8,12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, The Precentor; 11.15 M, The Call (Williams), The Chancellor; 3.45 E, The old order changeth (Shephard)

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 L & Euch, Missa Bel Amfitrit Altera (Lassus), Canon N Vincent; 3 Choral E, The Second Service (Gibbons), Canon M Boyling; 4 HC.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Adoramus te (Monteverdi), Canon A Radcliffe; 2 Guides Association Golden Jubilee; 6.30 E, Call to remembrance (Farrant), Canon A Radcliffe.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, 10.30 Family Euch, My song is love unknown (Archer); 6.30 E, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Sumsion).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Treasurer; 10 Euch, Litany (Tallis), Christus factus est (Bruckner), Rev A Philp; 11.30 M, O Lord most gracious Lord (Bach), Canon J Osborne; 3 E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Jesu the very thought of Thee (Bairstow); 6.30 E & Sermon.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Out of the deep (Morley), The Provost; 3 Choral E, O Lord my God (Humfrey), Rev D Atkinson; 6.30 Book of Common Prayer (1662) Choral Euch, Rev R White.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, The Chancellor; 11 M, Lord let me know mine end (Greene), Canon M Austin; 3.15 E, Salvator mundi (Blow); 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Dean; 10 S Euch, Hide not thou thy face (Farrant), The Treasurer; 6 E, Miserere Mei (Byrd), The Curate.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 9.15 Parish C, Canon I Knox, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 11 Solemn Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Rev A Jennings; 4 E, Call to remembrance (Farrant), The Provost.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev P Walker; 11.30 M, Greater love hath no man (Ireland); 3 E, Lord let me know mine end (Greene), Rev R Askew.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Hear my prayer (Purcell), Canon C Semper; 11.15 Euch, Call to remembrance O Lord (Farrant), Canon A Harvey; 3 E, Magdalen service (Leighton), Salvator mundi (Blow), Sir J Ford; 5.45 Organ; 6.30 E, Rev J Goodall.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7.8,9.12; 5.30,7 Mass; 10 MP; 10.30 Solemn Mass, O Domine Jesu Christe (Guerrero); 3.30 Solemn V&B, Magnificat secundi toni (Morales); 4.30 Recital.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Salvator mundi (Tallis), Rev P Morgan; 11.30 Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 3.30 E, Save us O Lord (Bairstow), The Archdeacon.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton), Rev Dr J Toy; 11.30 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 4 E, O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce), Rev P Ferguson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, The Dean; 3.30 Choral E, O nata lux de lumine (Tallis).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Minor Canon; 11.15 Choral M, Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood), The Canon; 6 Choral E, Wash me throughly (Wesley).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8.10,6 LM; 11.30 Solemn M, Mgr L White.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Morning HC, Rev C Kenny; 10 Morning HC, Very Rev Dr W McDonald, Mass Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina); 11.30 Morning, Very Rev Dr W McDonald; 6 Lenten Address, Dr G Strachan; 8 Evening, Rev D Robertson.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Miserere mei Deus (Byrd), Rev C Hill; 3.15 E, Cast me not away from thy presence (Wesley), Rt Rev G James; 5.15 Organ.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8.5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Laudate Dominum (Lassus), The Vicar; 6 Solemn E&B, The Short Service (Ayleward), Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11, Mr D Turner; 6.30 Communion, Rev R Tice.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Mass for 5 voices (Byrd), Lamentations (aleph and beth) (Tallis)

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 Parish C; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 HC, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 Mass; 11 Solemn Latin.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Informal HC, Mr J Jennings; 5 Informal HC, Rev S Millar; 7.30 Informal, Rev S Lees.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Mass in G minor (Williams), Super flumina Babylonis (Palestrina) 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V&B, Miserere mei (Victoria).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 Morning Service & HC, Rev D Bridge.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 10, 6.30, HC; 11 Morning, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC; 7 Choral Mass, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Ven F Weston; 6.30 E, Rev Dr N Wallbank.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, O let me at thy footstool fall (Peerson), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch & L, Litany (Tallis), Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev I Thomas.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev J McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9.11 Mass, Mass (Stravinsky), In Jejunio et Fletu (Tallis).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Kelly in C, O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C, Ye are the blessed of the Lord (Wesley), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Short Service (Patrick), Nolo Mortem (Morley).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev H Valentine; 5.45 EP.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8,12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Miserere mei (Byrd), Rev D Waton; 6.30 D, Aids Today, Rev N Kirkup.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Ley in E minor, O vos omnes (Correa), Rev T Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Canon C Semper.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8.12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 9.5 Euch, Rev W Ratchford; 11.30 Visitors, Rev B Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening office in Lent.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8,12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch; 11.15 Choral M, Rev D Weekes; 6.30 Choral E, Mr N Pain.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9.10,7 LM; 11 HM, Communion Service (Farrant), Fr P Pilkington; 6 Solemn E & Solemn B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Exaudi Deus (Grandi), Rev J Ovenden; 6 Choral E, Second Service (Byrd), Wash me throughly (Wesley).

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Hear me O Lord and that soon (Purcell), Rev P Wells; 6.30 Ministry of Healing, Rev J Roberts.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8.9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd), Selig sind die toten (Schutz), Rev S Taylor.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Aspice Domine (Palestrina), Fr D Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 MP, Benedicte (Sumsion), Remember not O Lord (Purcell); 6.30 E, Canon Porter.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8.9 LM; 11 Solemn M, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Custodi me Domine (Lassus), Super flamina Babylonis (Palestrina), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Versa est in luctum (Lobo), Canon J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Matris Dei (Jackson), Canon J Stanley.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Ad te levavi oculos meos (White), Rev S Hobbs

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Gibbons, The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Wash me throughly (Wesley), The Reader.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC, God so loved the world (Goss), Mass in four parts (Byrd), Band of the Irish Guards, Rev D Wilkes.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Shaw, Call to remembrance (Farrant), Rev C French.

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The life I now live is not my life, but the life which Christ lives in me; and my present mortal life is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.
Galatians 2 : 20 (REB)

BIRTHS

ARENSPERG UND TRAUN - Count and Countess Ernst Rudolf and Natasha announce with great joy the birth of their daughter Milana-Maria on 23rd February 1996.

ACKROYD - On February 28th 1996, to Zoë (née Gorham) and Christopher, a beautiful daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

ASSER - On 26th February at The Portland Hospital, to Martin and Laila, a son, Ali Martin Richard, a brother for Bilal.

BURDON - Gianlucca born to Mandy (née Osborne) and Paul on 29th February, a brother for Annabelle.

HAWKINS-HOOKER - On 27th February 1996, to Sallie and Richard, a daughter, Laetitia Alice, a sister for Alexander.

HEARNE - On February 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Silvia (née Arouca) and Dennis, a fine and healthy son, Christopher William Hearne.

HOGG - On 23rd January 1996, to Robert and Linda (née Arbuckle), a beautiful daughter, Caitlin Louise, first grandchild for both sides of the family.

MILLIKEN-SMITH - On February 6th in Canada, to Sandra (née Kaufman) and Craig, a son, Maxwell Craig.

MYNERS - On 28th February at The Portland Hospital, to Paul and Alison, a son, Bartholomew Piers Trevelyan.

BIRTHS

PHILLIPS - On February 29th 1996, to Caroline (née Browne) and Christopher, a son, Harry Michael.

SWIRE - On 1st March, to Camilla (née Husband) and Barnaby, a son.

SYMINGTON - On 29th February, at The Portland Hospital, to Anna (née Gates) and Rupert, a son, Oscar Alexander Offolt, a brother for Inca and Hugh.

VOULTON - On 13th December 1995, to Sarah (née D'Abreo) and Jérôme, a daughter, Eugénie Mathilde.

WHITESIDE - On February 28th 1996, to Martyn and Alexandra, a beautiful daughter, Eve Lovelle, a sister for Elizabeth and Jessica.

WILSON - On February 19th 1996, to Camilla (née Somerville-Cotton) and Colin, a son, Oliver.

MARRIAGES

BRITTAIN-CATLIN: AUSTEN - On February 29th 1996 at Tenterden Town Hall followed by a blessing at St Mildred's Church, Tenterden, between Daniel Brittain-Catlin, eldest son of the late John Brittain-Catlin and Jennifer Balfour of Burleigh, of Edinburgh and Amanda Austen, daughter of Kenneth and Margaret Austen, of Sydney, Australia.

DEATHS

CAMILLERI - Elena, on 29th February 1996, peacefully, aged 91. Beloved wife of the late Henry, mother of Robert, John, Antonia and Maurice and loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Service at Nazareth House, Hammersmith Road, London W6 at 1.30 pm on Thursday 7th March followed by funeral at Mortlake Cemetery at 2.30 pm. No flowers but donations, if desired, to Nazareth House.

EADE - Reverend Stephen David, on 28th February at Weston-super-Mare. Funeral Service Tuesday 5th March 12 noon at Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-super-Mare followed by cremation. No flowers by request but donations if desired to Weston Hospicecare c/o Cooksley & Son, 1 Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare.

EVANS - John Mascall, Priest, Canon of Guildford Cathedral. Suddenly on February 29th at Gracey Court, Broadclyst. Greatly loved by family and friends. Funeral Service on Tuesday March 5th at Broadclyst Parish Church at 3 pm. Donations for Exeter Homes Committee c/o Le Roy Funeral Service, 10 Alphington Road, Exeter, EX2 8HH, tel: (01392) 55535.

HARGREAVES - Michael Kenneth, died in hospital on 29th February. Dearly loved husband of Muriel and father of Neville. Funeral on March 7th at St Mary's Church, Beaconsfield at 1.45 pm. Family flowers only: Donations if desired to British Diabetic Association c/o H.C. Grimstead Funeral Directors, Shepherds Lane, Beaconsfield, HP9 2DU.

FATTORINI - Mary (née Collingwood) aged 84 years, on 28th February 1996, peacefully at Summerland House Nursing Home, Guernsey, beloved wife of the late Joseph, much loved mother of Peter, Edward, and Jane, a loved mother-in-law, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass at St. Josephs Church, St. Peter Port, Guernsey on Tuesday 5th March at 2.30pm. Relatives and friends kindly accept this intimation. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Les Bourgs Hospice, Rue du Tertre, St. Andrews, Guernsey. Private interment.

HAIG - Olive. On 22nd February 1996, of 74 Virginia Road, Wanganui, New Zealand, aged 96 years. Wife of the late Edwin Haig, formerly of Nigeria and Eversley, Hants, mother and mother-in-law of Felicity and John Rivers, and a loving and much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. A brave and generous lady - life will seem very strange without her. A Requiem Mass was celebrated for Olive on 24th February, followed by private cremation. Any donations in her memory to The Save The Children Fund would be appreciated.

HOWLETT - Maurice Dalziel Drummond. Died peacefully in Princess Alice Hospice, Esher, on February 29th, aged 82. Much loved husband of Gwendoline, devoted father of Chris, loving stepfather of Peter, Catherine and Anthony (dec'd). Step-grandfather of Christopher, Tess, Lizzie, Theo and Oliver. Family flowers only. Donations to Princess Alice Hospice. Cremation at Mortlake Crematorium on March 6th 12.30 pm.

LANE - Harold Sydney, aged 70 years, at Mount Edgcumbe Hospice on 29th February 1996 after an illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Nancy, much loved father of Colin and Vivian, sadly missed grandfather of Daniel, Paul, Gemma and Jago, father-in-law of Belinda and Gillian. Funeral at Lanteglos on Wednesday 6th March at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, donations to Mount Edgcumbe Hospice, St. Austell. Tel: (01726) 66711.

MARGOLIS - Cecil, Alderman. On 10th February, aged 87. Beloved father, grandfather and brother. Tireless worker pro bono publico. Remarkable character widely respected. Funeral took place at Harrogate on 12th February.

PORTER - Suddenly at home on 28th February 1996, Ernest H. Porter MB ChB MA FRCR., aged 65 years. Beloved husband of R. Sushila Bundi and dear brother of Charles A. Porter. Funeral Service in St Andrew's Church, Bothwell Road, Uddingston, on Tuesday 5th March at 1 pm. Thereafter to Daldowie Crematorium, Broomhouse, Uddingston for 2 pm. No flowers please. Any donations to R.N.L.I.

ROBSON - Brian John, formerly Senior Partner of Robson, Harris Advocates of Nairobi, Kenya. Died peacefully at Aveley Hill Nursing Home, Farnham, Surrey, England on 26th February 1996 aged 85. Beloved husband of Irene and devoted stepfather to Gail. Funeral Service to be held on Monday 4th March at 11 am at Aldershot Crematorium. No flowers by request. Donations to W.W.F. Charity Number 201707. Enquiries to Farnham Funeral Service tel: (01252) 711444, fax: (01252) 717801.

SALISBURY-JONES - Jasper on February 29th peacefully at Noble's Hospital, Isle of Man, aged 65. Beloved husband of Celia and much loved father of John, David, Richard and Phyllida. Funeral Service at Malew Church. All enquiries to Cringle and Coole, tel: (01624) 833 602.

SAWTELL - On 28th February 1996, peacefully in Yeovil Hospital, Ellis Mary Grace of Keinton Mandeville aged 84 years. Funeral at All Saints Church, Kingweston, at 12.30 pm on Friday 8th March. Family flowers only. Donations to All Saints Church.

STOKES - Henry (Harry), died in The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, on Tuesday February 27th, aged 78. A devoted and much loved husband, father and grandfather.

WILSON-MacDONALD - Duncan Stuart D.S.O. D.F.C. RAF (ret'd) aged 83 after a short final illness, on Leap Year Day (29th February 1996), dear husband, father and grandfather. One of "The Few". Per ardua ad astra. Funeral private. Donations in his memory would be much appreciated for the Royal British Legion.

WOODWARD - On 1st March 1996, Major Richard Henry Seymer, late the Gloucestershire Regiment, aged 84, loving and dearly loved husband of Marjorie, loving father of Charles and loved grandfather of Christopher, Lucy and Serena. Thanksgiving Service for his life on Friday 8th March 12 noon at St Edward's, Kempley, Glos. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Gloucestershire Regimental Association.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BLACK - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Jean Black will take place at 2.30 pm on 22nd March at St George's Church, Fovant, Salisbury.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

INSTONE - Lovingly remembered, Sir Samuel and Lady Instone on their wedding anniversary, and also our dearest sisters Anne and Theo.

SWORDER - Erica Ann, SRN, SCM, MTD. Killed in Paris aircrash March 3rd 1974. Much loved and missed by us all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHATTERJEE - Mrs Margaret Chatterjee and family express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends, neighbours, colleagues and patients for all their kind messages of sympathy, cards and floral tributes received in their sad loss. Many grateful thanks to Rev. Peter Mott and Mr Madhusan Dave for their comforting ministrations and kindness, also Mr David Parker and staff of the Co-operative Funeral Service for their special help and arrangements. Please accept this as the only intimation.

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LEGAL NOTICES

CEDAR STREET LIMITED
(in Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
Company number: 2573070
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF CEDAR STREET LIMITED

On 29 February 1996 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.

The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 28th March 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.

The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 29 February 1996.
AV Lomas, Liquidator.

هكذا من الأصل

LYDIA CHUKOVSKAYA

Lydia Chukovskaya, writer, died in Moscow on February 7 aged 88. She was born in St Petersburg on March 24, 1907.

A WRITER who with a stubborn courage outfaced the repressions of the Stalinist regime, Lydia Chukovskya combined passionate conviction with a generous quality of self effacement. Though a talented author in her own right, it is as much for this as for her defence of fellow writers that she became known.

She championed Pasternak when he came under attack from the authorities in the late 1950s; she sheltered Solzhenitsyn at her country villa near Moscow, and she was the lifelong friend and confidante of Anna Akhmatova, one of the most brilliant Russian poets of the 20th century. Committing, as Chukovskaya did, many of Akhmatova's poems to memory before burning the scraps of paper on which they had been written, she ensured that many of Akhmatova's works, which might otherwise have been lost, survive.

Lydia Chukovskaya grew up in an ambience where art and literature reigned supreme. Her father Korney Chukovsky was, even before the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, a celebrated author, literary critic and translator, known especially for his children's books. This period, perhaps the only carefree time in the whole of her tormented life, is described in Chukovskaya's lyrical *To the Memory of Childhood*.

Her life was hard. In 1937 her second husband Matvey Bronshteyn, a theoretical physicist and writer, was arrested and soon after shot. After his arrest Chukovskaya had to go into hiding because the vindictive regime routinely apprehended wives of so-called "enemies of the people".

It was at this time that her acquaintanceship with Anna Akhmatova began. Akhmatova's husband and son had also been imprisoned, and she and Chukovskaya were to become lifelong friends.

From their very first meeting Chukovskaya started to keep a precise record of their conversations. This was a dangerous enterprise. Interspersed with chat about literature or the problems of daily life, they would discuss in hushed voices the Stalinist repressions which overshadowed their lives: the bloody executions of innocent citizens, the horrors of torture and imprisonment. Had their words reached the ears of the authorities they would have led to arrest, imprisonment and probable death. Chukovskaya had to memorise Akhmatova's poetry because it was too dangerous to keep it written down.

Her records of her meetings with Akhmatova subsequently became Chukovskaya's principal work. *Notes on Anna Akhmatova* was published in three volumes, the commentaries for the third volume being completed only on Chukovskaya's deathbed. It was for this work that in 1995 Chukovskaya was awarded the State Prize for Literature. Before that, in 1992, she had been the first to receive the Sakharov prize for her courage.

Before the Second World War, in the midst of Stalin's purges, Chukovskaya wrote her novella *Sofia Petrovna* in which, through the character of her eponymous heroine — a woman who, after the arrest of her son retreats into a world of lonely fantasy — she analysed the general psychosis of the Russian people, their almost universal incomprehension of the situation in which they found themselves. Even to have kept the manuscripts of such a work would have been considered a grave offence, punishable by prolonged imprisonment.

Chukovskaya, however, though physically fragile and almost blind, was fearless. Extraordinarily sincere — Solzhenitsyn described her as "incorruptible" — she would not tolerate hypocrisy either in literature or in life. In the stagnant 1950s and 1960s she became a veritable warrior for the truth and wrote letters and articles not published in the USSR but circulated in Samizdat and broadcast by foreign radio stations.

She castigated the persecutors of Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov, and before that she defended the writers Sinyavsky and Daniel, who were, in 1966, sentenced for their literary activity. The price she paid was expulsion from the Soviet Writer's Union. Her books were removed from library shelves, her name was not allowed to be mentioned, even as a translator, and for 16 years not a word of hers was published in Russia. She was under surveillance and threatened by the authorities. But she did not give in. She worked unremittingly. This period saw the publication of her books *Going Under*, *The Process of Expulsion* and *Notes on Anna Akhmatova*.

Chukovskaya had a profound knowledge and deep love of poetry. A few years before her death she put together a small anthology of her own poems which was published in Moscow in 1992. She did not live to see in print her final work on the purity of the Russian language, but a newspaper with the article in it was brought to her funeral. She was buried in the cemetry of Peredelkino, near Moscow, a few feet from the grave of Boris Pasternak. Among the many writers who attended, were Solzhentisyn and Vladimir Kornilov.

Lydia Chukovskaya is survived by her daughter Elena.

GIANANDREA GAVAZZENI

***Gianandrea Gavazzeni,* conductor, composer and musicologist, died in Bergamo on February 5 aged 86. He was born in the same town on July 25, 1909.**

A RELATIVE latecomer to conducting, Gianandrea Gavazzeni was over 30 by the time he decided to take up the baton. Before then he had been a composer and a musicologist. He wrote extensively about music, notably on Mussorgsky, and even did a little journalism. He was 55 when he made his first appearance with a British opera company, at Glyndebourne, and 66 on his debut at New York's Metropolitan Opera.

But Gianandrea Gavazzeni cared little for an international reputation. A stocky figure with an unruly mane of white hair, he was an Italian through and through, preferring to conduct in Italy, where his musical home was La Scala, Milan. He made his house debut in 1944 and remained associated with the theatre until his death.

Gavazzeni was La Scala's artistic director from 1965 to 1968 and led the company on its visit to Moscow in 1965. It was at La Scala that Gavazzeni partnered all the leading singers of the day, principally in Italian opera.

He had a special influence on Maria Callas. They first met in 1950 when she was at the start of her career, still fat and singing appropriately heavyweight roles. Fiorilla, heroine of Rossini's then little performed *Il turco in Italia*, certainly did not come into that category and Gavazzeni had to work hard to squeeze comedy out of his very serious soprano. But his efforts paid off and *Il turco* was a success at Rome's Teatro Eliseo. Five years later when La Scala decided to put it on in a far grander production, directed by the young Franco Zeffirelli, the Callas-Gavazzeni combination was the obvious choice. The composer-turned-conductor even provided a little extra music for the one line of spoken dialogue which Callas at that stage found difficulty in handling.

Gavazzeni and Callas continued to work together at La Scala in operas such as Cherubini's *Medea*, Giordano's *Fedora* and Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*. But the apex of the partnership was *Anna Bolena*, in which new life was breathed into this almost forgotten work. Anna became one of Callas's grandest assumptions.

The partnership, however, ended unhappily. After her singing career was over, Callas was invited by Turin to stage Verdi's *I vespri siciliani* to mark the inauguration of the rebuilt Teatro Regio. She asked Gavazzeni to conduct but made the mistake of persuading the Regio to invite the tenor Giuseppe di Stefano to co-direct. Gavazzeni, who had worked on a number of occasions with di Stefano, disapproved and walked out of the production. But his judgment proved correct. By the time the performance ended the house was half empty.

Gavazzeni was a natural choice of conductor for Glyndebourne when it decided to follow La Scala and stage a production of *Anna Bolena*. Anna was sung by Leyla Gencer who had a considerable cult following but was reckoned by some to be a mere Callas substitute. She had, however, been nurtured and coached by Gavazzeni. He incurred the wrath of purist critics by cutting the overture, declaring that it was not worth playing, and left Glyndebourne after his scheduled number of performances never to return. When the opera was later revived under another conductor and the overture reinstated, some of those same critics had to admit grudgingly that Gavazzeni may have been right.

Gavazzeni began his career studying piano and then moved to composition under Ildebrando Pizzetti. He repaid his teacher by becoming a great champion of his music once his own career was established. He conducted a number of premieres of Pizzetti works, including *Assassinio nella cattedrale*, based on T. S. Eliot's verse play.

Although Gavazzeni's early reputation was as an interpreter of turn-of-the-century *verismo* operas he was always ready to champion contemporary Italian composers, Malipiero and Petrassi among them.

During the 1930s he concentrated on his own compositions, which included a one-act opera, *Paolo e Virginia*. But when he was 40 he turned against his own music and declined to have it played. He began a long association with Florence's Maggio Musicale before the war when his work was performed there. In Florence Gavazzeni argued the case for *Boris Godunov* in Mussorgsky's original score without the usual Rimsky additions and published a monograph on the composer in 1943. It was also at Florence during the winter season of 1955-56 that Gavazzeni made a new edition of Mascagni's *Le maschere*, which he conducted.

The mid-1950s was also his most fruitful recording period. With Callas there was *Anna Bolena* from La Scala, also *Un ballo in maschera*. And with her rival, Renata Tebaldi, whom he partnered both in Italy and in Chicago, there was Giordano's *Andrea Chenier*.

He never appeared at Covent Garden but did make one recording with the Royal Opera's orchestra and chorus: *L'amico Fritz*, with Mirella Freni and Luciano Pavarotti. It remains one of the finest monuments to his beloved Mascagni.

THE EARL OF STAIR

The 13th Earl of Stair, KCVO, MBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Wigtownshire, 1961-81, died on February 26 aged 89. He was born on October 9, 1906.

LORD STAIR was the head of the Dalrymple family, a Scots Guard for 70 years, and held a number of important ceremonial positions in Scotland including Captain General of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers.

Stair claimed descent from the feudal barons of Dalrymple, County Ayr, in 1371, but the first proven ancestor was William de Dalrymple in 1429. The first prominent member of the family was Sir James Dalrymple, Viscount Stair, a zealous Presbyterian who was appointed a Lord of Session by Cromwell in 1657, but whose career included a spell of exile in Holland. He was responsible for the massacre of the Macdonalds of Glencoe in 1692. His son was elevated to the Earldom in 1703 and in turn his son, Field Marshal the 2nd Earl, was the most famous of the family having served at Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet and having brought the news of Marlborough's victory to England.

Stair did not descend from the 1st or 2nd Earl, however, but by one of those complicated lateral Scottish successions, he descended from the 1st Viscount via the Hamilton-Dalrymple-Macgills and the 9th Earl. Family connections with the Scots Guards go back to the 10th Earl, who served in the regiment as did the 12th Earl, Lord Stair's father, and his maternal grandfather.

John Aymer Dalrymple, the 13th Earl, was educated at Eton and Sandhurst. He joined the Scots Guards in 1926, served as Captain and Adjutant from 1932 to 1935, and was Brigade Major in the 169th (3rd London) Infantry Brigade from 1936 to 1938.

During the Second World War he served in the Middle East and Central Mediterranean when he was mentioned in dispatches and appointed MBE in 1941. He went on to be Lieutenant-Colonel commanding 1st Battalion Scots Guards from 1942 to 1943. He commanded the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards (British Army of the Rhine) from 1946 to 1949 and the entire regiment from 1949 to 1952. He retired as Hon Colonel in 1953.

Stair was made a JP, 1936, county councillor, 1938, and a Deputy Lieutenant, 1953, for Wigtownshire. He succeeded to the Earldom in 1961 and was Lord-Lieutenant of Wigtownshire from 1962 to 1981. He was Captain General of the Royal Company of Archers and thus Gold Stick for Scotland from 1973 to 1988. As such he was in charge of the Archers at the Queen's annual garden party at Holyroodhouse. He presided over the Company's tercentenary celebrations in the presence of the Queen in October 1976. Stair was a stickler for a haircut, more than once urging the neck clippers onto the less traditional members of the Royal Company.

Stair was appointed CVO in 1964 and advanced to KCVO in 1978, but the Thistle (given to his father and at least two ancestors) eluded him.

Lord Stair was a brisk, moustached, military figure, invariably adorned in Scottish tweed and Brigade tie. He was keen on sport, particularly shooting and fishing the River Luce, which flowed through his estates at Stranraer on the extreme west of the Lowlands of Scotland. A hundred years ago the family was one of 28 to own more than 100,000 acres in the United Kingdom. (This has been reduced by half). Their home was Lochinch, a fine Scottish baronial castle at Stranraer. The estate, including Castle Kennedy, was noted for its fabulous rhododendrons. They also owned Oxenfoord Castle, near Edinburgh, which was run as a school by Stair's aunts.

In 1960 Stair married Davina Bowes-Lyon, the 29 year old only daughter of Sir David Bowes-Lyon, the Queen Mother's younger brother. (Lady Bowes-Lyon, her mother, died earlier this year.) The wedding took place at St James's Piccadilly. The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present. Lady Stair was for many years Master of the Wigtownshire Hunt.

Stair is survived by her and their three sons, the eldest of whom, Viscount Dalrymple, also serving in the Scots Guards, now succeeds to the title.

CHARLES McCORQUODALE

Charles McCorquodale, art historian, died of an Aids-related illness on February 16 aged 47. He was born on June 29, 1948.

THROUGH his revaluation of 17th-century Italian culture Charles McCorquodale helped to transform the study of early-modern art history.

Charles Paul McCorquodale was educated at George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, where he absorbed the rigorous scientific methods of the Scottish educational system. In London, in 1969, he took a first-class degree in the History of European Art at the Courtauld Institute.

By this point his academic interests had settled upon the court of the Medici Grand Dukes of Tuscany and, specifically, upon one of its leading painters Carlo Dolci. For a man whose wit and humour could often mask his profound erudition, McCorquodale felt passionately about Dolci and often grew visibly angry at traditional dismissals of his paintings as "slick" or "manufactured".

Unlike many Anglo-American members of the Medici industry, McCorquodale distanced himself from notions of decadence, decay and twilight and, instead, argued the case for the aesthetic value and historical importance of these paintings. It was no accident, therefore, that he selected for the dustjacket of his first book *The Baroque Painters of Italy* (1979), a detail of Pietro da Cortona's fresco in the Palazzo Pitti, Florence, entitled *The Age of Gold*.

McCorquodale's 1973 article *A Fresh Look at Carlo Dolci* signalled his intention to resurrect the reputation of his favourite artist. Unfortunately, his decision to publish the piece in *Apollo* created tensions and frictions at the highly politicised Courtauld Institute, and it seems most likely that his disillusion with establishments of official scholarship deepened as a result of this episode, which led to the abandonment of the doctoral thesis he had been planning.

By the time this point had been reached, however, he had published several other articles, again in *Apollo*, but also in *The Burlington Magazine* and *The Connoisseur*. These, along with his contributions to the catalogue of the 1979 Royal Academy exhibition *Painting in Florence, 1600-1700*, which he organised, constitute an enduring corpus of scholarly work. They remain a central point of reference for the study of 17th-century Italian art in general and of Carlo Dolci in particular. By the time of the appearance in 1981 of his second book, *Bronzino*, McCorquodale was spending less time in London and more in Florence, which had virtually become his second home; there he embarked upon a precarious career as a freelance writer.

The History of Interior Decoration (1983) demonstrated his conviction that it is impossible to detach the history of painting from that of the architectural spaces and the furnishings originally associated with pictures as part of an ensemble. His intellectual position has gained a growing number of adherents in the last decade. McCorquodale's final book *The Renaissance: European Painting, 1400-1600* was published in 1994, but by this point financial preoccupations and worries about his worsening health had limited his activities.

Even so, McCorquodale still talked about mounting a Dolci exhibition, about writing his unrealised Dolci monograph and about undertaking a study of the cultural patronage of Grand Duchess Vittoria della Rovere of Tuscany. No one would argue that the potential McCorquodale demonstrated during the 1970s was realised during the remaining decade and a half of his life. But his enthusiastic and positive approach to cultural history has left an indelible mark upon 17th-century Italian studies.

Charles McCorquodale's marriage to Rhoda King was dissolved in 1980. He is survived by their son Julien, and by his long-time companion, David Cossart.

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00923 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
BETWEEN:
IN THE MATTER OF BLUE
PRINCE MUSHROOMS LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 16th February 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £11,800,000 by £7,080,000 to £4,720,000 returning capital which is in excess of the wants of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 13th day of March 1996

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 27th day of February 1996
SHOOSMITHS & HARRISON
Russell House
Solent Business Park
Whiteley Fareham
Hampshire PO15 7AG
Tel: 01489 881010
Fax: 01489 881000
Ref: LAF/TL2/6HD881.01
Solicitors for the Petitioner.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTHERN ELECTRIC PLC

Notice of Application For Extension Of Gas Suppliers' Licence Under Section 7a(1)(a) Of The Gas Act 1986

Northern Electric plc whose registered office is situated at Carliol House, Market Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6NE, hereby give notice that it has made an application for an extension of the licence granted to it under section 7A(1)(b) of the Gas Act 1986 so that the licence would also be a licence under section 7A(1)(a) of the Act and all premises within Great Britain were specified in the licence.

Date 2 March 1996.

John France, Regulation Manager.
Northern Electric plc,
Carliol House, Market Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6NE.

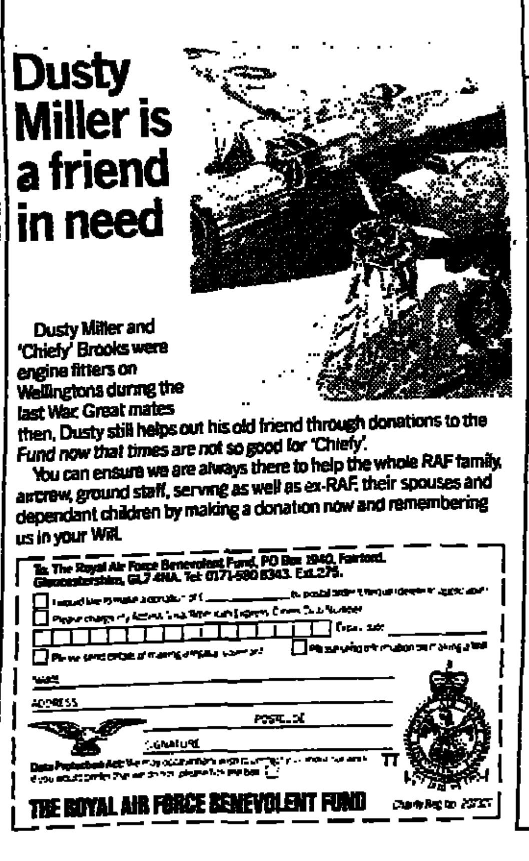
ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN IMPORTANT ex-services charity founded in 1946 seeks a commercial sponsor (perhaps also founded in 1946) to share Golden Jubilee promotions. Please reply to: The Appeal Director, Chaseley, South Cliff, Eastbourne BN20 7JH.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTRY HOUSES Association has apartments for retired people. For information write to CHA (L90), Freepost, London, WC2B 6BR.

MY darling Christine all my love for this day and for ever more Ian xx.



Dusty Miller is a friend in need

Dusty Miller and 'Chiefy' Brooks were engine fitters on Wellingtons during the last War. Great mates then, Dusty still helps out his old friend through donations to the Fund now that times are not so good for 'Chiefy'.

You can ensure we are always there to help the whole RAF family, aircrew, ground staff, serving as well as ex-RAF, their spouses and dependant children by making a donation now and remembering us in your Will.

To: The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, PO Box 1940, Fairford, Gloucestershire, GL7 4NA. Tel: 0171-580 8343. Ext.275.

NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
SIGNATURE

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

ON THIS DAY

March 2, 1934

P'u Yi (1906-1967), last Emperor of the Manchu dynasty of China, had a career marked by great highs and lows. Handed over by the Russians to the Chinese Communists in 1950, he was sent to a school for political indoctrination and released in 1959

FIRST EMPEROR OF MANCHUKUO

THE ENTHRONEMENT CEREMONIES

CONTRAST IN RITES

P'u Yi was yesterday enthroned at Hsinking (Changchun) as Emperor of Manchukuo. Formerly Emperor of China, he had been Chief Executive of Manchukuo since it declared its independence in March, 1932.

The enthronement was largely on the traditional lines of the Manchu dynasty, but certain Western methods were adopted. Yesterday's ceremonies were twofold: religious observances carried out at dawn, and the enthronement thereafter in the hall of the newly built palace.

The religious observances were of a picturesque character, the chief feature being the sacrifices by the Emperor on a temporary Altar of Heaven, which was surrounded by three circular terraces.

The morning was cold, but large crowds lined the streets as the young Emperor left his palace in a bullet-proof motor-car to drive to the altar. He was, says Reuter's correspondent, wearing a fur-trimmed pearl-bedecked hat with red tassels and a blue gown richly embroidered with golden dragons and other symbols, with sleeves dark red. His outer coat was emblazoned with the Imperial dragon.

The officials having taken up positions north of the altar, the Emperor mounted the marble steps, and the ceremonies began. A thin column of smoke symbolized the passage of prayers to Heaven as the new Monarch made an offering of a jade amulet and a roll of silk. Then followed offerings of three goblets of sacrificial wine and a scroll bearing a message which P'u Yi read out. The great jade Seal of State was then handed to him, and he reverently raised it to Heaven. As the seal was handed back to the attendant the fire on the altar was rekindled while the Emperor silently invoked the blessing of Heaven and the spirits of his ancestors. While the Emperor was thus engaged in prayer, the priests killed a snow-white bull, which was offered in sacrifice.

The ceremony over, the Imperial cortège drove rapidly back to the Palace. Large numbers of troops kept the crowds at a distance from the Emperor's route.

On the stroke of noon, the Emperor, now in the uniform of a Field-Marshal, entered the Hall of Ceremony and mounted his Jade Throne. The high officers of State and Court bowed deep before their Emperor, who was again handed the Great Seal of State, this time to seal his first rescript as enthroned monarch. This he read out to the company.

Chang Hsiao-hsiu, the Prime Minister of Manchukuo, having led in three cheers for his new Emperor, then received the edict proclaiming P'u Yi's acceptance of the Throne. The Emperor then retired, while a salute of 100 guns announced to the people generally that the reign of "tranquillity and virtue" of the new Manchu dynasty had begun.

Aeroplanes droned overhead and dropped Royal proclamations on a gathering of 15,000 in the Municipal Gardens assembled to celebrate the Coronation . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

NEWS

Clinton gives Adams visa

■ The Clinton Administration granted Gerry Adams a visa but immediately put pressure on the Sinn Fein leader by insisting he would not be attending any meetings at the White House unless the IRA declared a ceasefire. Mr Adams will be allowed to visit for St Patrick's Day but he will face tighter restrictions than when he was able to raise funds for Sinn Fein last year . **Page 1**

Shadow minister says Prince 'unfit'

■ Ronald Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, was at the centre of a political storm after claiming that the Prince of Wales was unfit to be king. Mr Davies, MP for Caerphilly, said that the breakdown of the Prince's marriage and his hypocrisy over wildlife disqualified him from succeeding .... **Pages 1, 7**

Mother recovers

A woman who was in a coma for ten days after suffering a rare life-threatening condition awoke to be told she had given birth to a healthy boy .... **Page 1**

Businessman barred

A British businessman suspected of spying was barred from Russia for the second time in seven years .... **Page 1**

Underwater eyes

Customs officers are deploying robot submarines to stay one step ahead of the drug barons.. **Page 1**

Mackay's battle

Lord Mackay is facing a bloody battle in the Commons over his refusal to accept the splitting of pensions on divorce .... **Page 2**

Parents to sue

The parents of a teenager who died during a routine cosmetic operation to have her ears pinned back are to sue the hospital where their daughter died .... **Page 3**

CS sprays for police

Police in England and Wales went on patrol armed with CS gas sprays in spite of warnings about possible health risks .... **Page 5**

Kew strike

For the first time since their creation in 1759 the Royal Botanic Gardens face a strike .... **Page 6**

Army anger over TV

Military chiefs have been angered by a ITV documentary series about the SAS, in which former members take part in reconstructions of missions................ **Page 9**

Human rights ignored

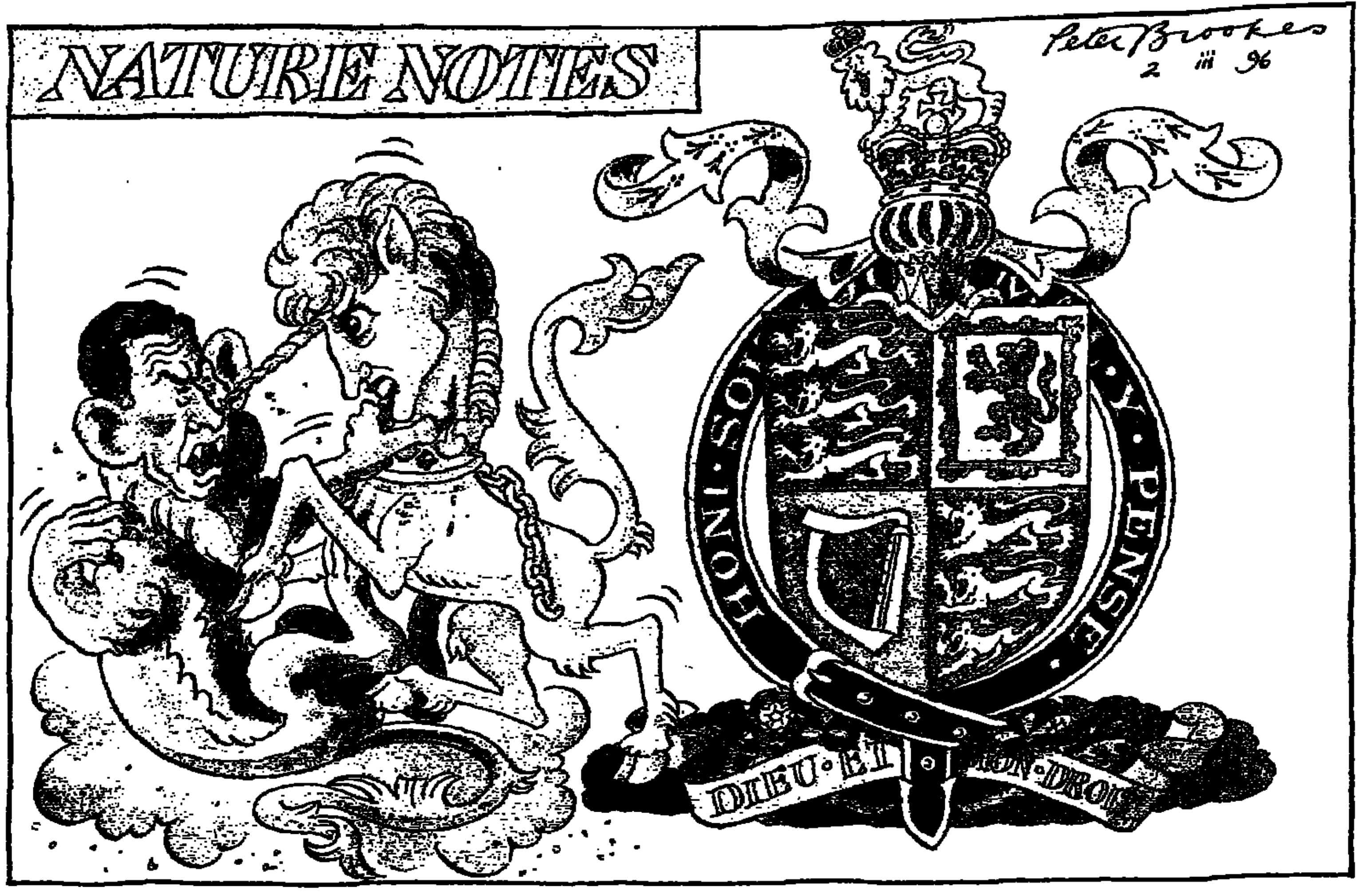
European leaders were moving away from a confrontation over human rights in an attempt to ensure that the first Asia-Europe summit is successful......... **Page 13**

Keating trails

Australians have turned on Paul Keating, their Prime Minister, and are poised to shun Labor in today's general election ... **Page 14**

£30 million for British Museum piazza

■ The British Museum was awarded £30 million by the Millennium Commission to transform the two-acre courtyard encircling its Round Reading Room into an indoor piazza with restaurants. A further £6 million has been given by Walter Annenberg, a former American ambassador to Britain .. **Page 4**



OPINION

Farewell to shopping: The primary in South Carolina ends one stage of the contest and ushers in a dramatically different one .... **Page 23**

It's a lottery: If the lottery continues to be as profitable as it is now for good causes, the grant bodies will be able to be more flexible.... **Page 23**

French polish: In their tastes, including their furniture, the French are not as *très snob* as pretended .... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Royal divorce; Jill Morrell on arms sales .... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The Vikings' claim not just to have reached America but to have "discovered" it and disseminated the knowledge is now validated by more than sagas . **Page 22**

Magnus Linklater: Nothing more irritates a Scot than to be subjected by an Englishman to generosity and self-deprecation............. **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Lydia Chukovskaya, writer; **the Earl of Stair; Charles McCorquodale,** art historian; **Gianandrea Gavazzeni,** conductor................. **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Lord Young of Graffham, the former Cabinet minister who was ousted in November as chairman of Cable & Wireless, is close to agreeing a £2.4 million pay-off.......... **Page 27**

Housing: More evidence emerged of a fragile recovery when the Nationwide reported a 0.9 per cent rise in its seasonally adjusted house price index................ **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 25.1 3752.7. Sterling rose from 83.5 to 83.6 after a fall from $1.5312 to $1.5282 but a rise from DM2.2501 to DM2.2558 .... **Page 30**

ARTS

Top score: "The public is more aware of fourth-rate novelists and sculptors than top-class composers," says Richard Morrison.... **Page 19**

Russian red nose: Some claim that Slava Polunin is the world's greatest clown. Now he has made England his base...................... **Page 21**

Miles and Gil: One of the great jazz partnerships will be recalled by the London Sinfonietta .... **Page 21**

CAR 96

Female Jaguar: A 160mph animal designed for women

SPORT

Rugby union: England will need to muster both physical and mental determination to stop the Scots securing the grand slam .... **Pages 50-52**

Cricket: Australia beat Zimbabwe by eight wickets in the World Cup to stay as favourites. United Arab Emirates gained their first win, against Holland ....**Page 46**

Racing: Adrian Maguire and Norman Williamson have been ruled out of National Hunt's Cheltenham Festival .... **Page 52**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Free spirit: Burma's democratic voice criticises Britain's attitude........ **Page 10**
Fallen idol: Disgrace of a black policeman.. **Page 18**

WEEKEND

Graphic: Times young cartoonists awards........... **1, 3**

Books: Palace secrecy and new novels.....**Pages 10, 11**
Travel: Britain; cruising; Africa; skiing. **Pages 16-23**

10 15

Dress: What do clothes say about you? ...... **Page 6**
Win: Tickets; CD stereo; trainers .... **Page 3**

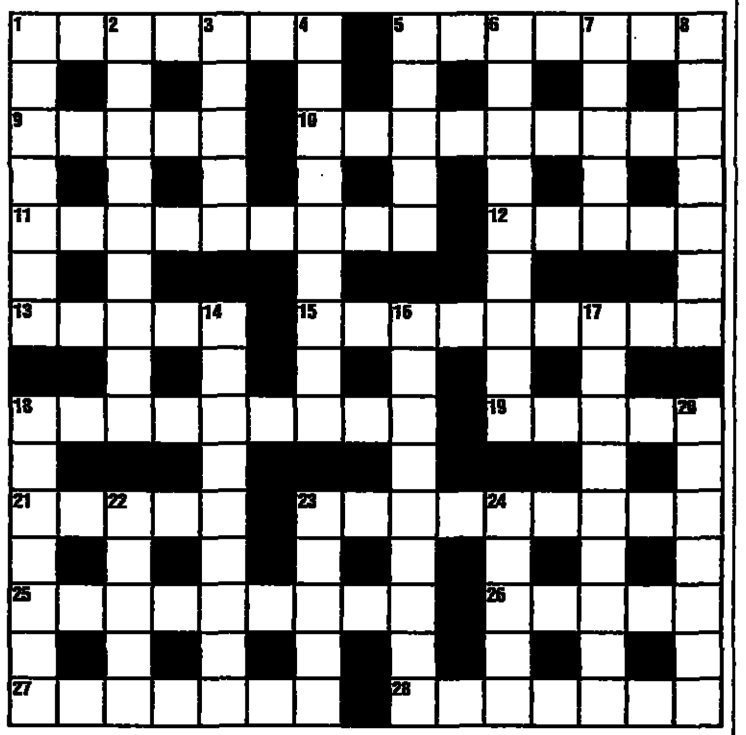
VISION

Mistresses: Antonia de Sancha and Bienvenida Buck. Thursday, BBC1
Film: *Singin' in the Rain,* Saturday, BBC2

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,105

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....



ACROSS

1 Cook's vessel? Yes and no (7).
5 One of Bill's victims in port of New York (7).
9 As used by Virgil, at inordinate length? (5).
10 Quickly stop a learner entering the lounge (6,3).
11 Coming together to study with classes (9).
12 Painter might go round this class and scoff (5).
13 Stoop to hear foreigner (5).
15 Deeply impressed in reading novel (9).
18 Publication like *The Observer*? (9).
19 Powerful Indian's catch secures a wicket (5).
21 Hedda losing her head? Not as weak as that (5).
23 Poor, Gaelic, unknown women, supposedly (6,3).
25 It's used finally to make attic outstanding (3-6).
26 Good with an old instrument (5).
27 Visibly astonished as father gets inspected (3-4).
28 Used references from a thick back edition (7).

DOWN

1 Cut around page that is intertwined (7).
2 Lengthy repairs to Exit Seven (9).
3 Fruit gives person energy (5).
4 Check exercise in relaxation (9).
5 Show fault in endless trust (5).
6 Fare on train revealing natural hierarchy (4,5).
7 This walk, between two rivers, would do for walker (5).
8 Nothing deters fluctuation in magnetic measurement (7).
14 Sick aunt has to get better, of course (9).
16 Rabelaisian character (with name for being enormous) (9).
17 Points to stall as place for daily provision (4-5).
18 Celebrated ram made to get to work (5,2).
20 Appropriate timber for a spar? (7).
22 Credulously take a worthless purchase, under a pound (3,2).
23 Carried on receiving pay (5).
24 Throw out Peel's reform without vote (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,099

```
NORTHANDSOUTH
I A E E T R E S
GARGANTUA GRANT
H E R B L E D R
TAROT AUKS OSSA
M   B L E T T W
APPAREL RHUBARB
R R E     R R E
EYEBALL PUNSTER
A T K O I T   R
BEEF SOWN ASSAY
B N T K T B U H
ELDER SCARLATTI
Y E O E D E R L
  DOTHEBOYSHALL
```

Solution to Puzzle No 20,104

```
COOPED HIPFLASK
 C U E E E A I
CHARGEHAND TUCK
 R I P R I H K
SEATBELT GRILLE
   A N B R   E
SCAN   RHEOSTAT
 H I M E E T V
MARCHESA   EDEN
 F   T K W V
AFRICA HAYFEVER
 I M P O V N X
SNUB HOUSEPARTY
 C U O S R G O
SHOETREE NEEDLE
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *M M Coombs, Roundhay, Leeds; L McKee, Belfast; P Lumbard, Cheltenham; J Walker, Newcastle; G Mackay, Galston, Ayrshire.*

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.43 am — Sun sets: 5.43 pm
Moon sets 3.01 pm — Moon rises 5.01 am

Full moon March 5

London 5 43 pm to 6.41 am
Bristol 5.53 pm to 6 51 am
Edinburgh 5.50 pm to 6.59 am
Manchester 5.49 pm to 6.52 am
Penzance 6.06 pm to 7.01 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.41 am — Sun sets: 5.45 pm
Moon sets 4.04 pm — Moon rises 5.30 am

Full moon March 5

London 5 45 pm to 6.39 am
Bristol 5.55 pm to 6 48 am
Edinburgh 5.52 pm to 6.56 am
Manchester 5.51 pm to 6 49 am
Penzance 6 08 pm to 7.59 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	-	-	12:09	6.1
Aberdeen	11:44	3.9	-	-
Avonmouth	5:06	11.2	5:35	11 6
Belfast	9:33	3.2	10:02	3 1
Cardiff	4:48	10.2	5:13	10.3
Devonport	3:41	4.7	4:08	4.7
Dover	9:34	5.7	9:51	6 0
Dublin (N Wall)	9:59	3.7	10:21	3.5
Falmouth	2:58	4.4	3:21	4.3
Greenock	10:54	3.1	11:38	3.0
Harwich	10:00	3.4	10:16	3.6
Holyhead	8:44	4.9	9:04	4 8
Hull (Albert D)	4:19	6.0	4:33	6 4
Ilfracombe	4:09	7.9	4:34	8.1
King's Lynn	4:32	5.4	4:50	5.5
Leith	0:36	4.6	12:56	4 8
Liverpool	9:34	8.3	9:56	8 4
Lowestoft	8:00	2.2	7:48	2 3
Margate	10:30	4 1	10:40	4.2
Milford Haven	4:29	5.8	4:51	6.0
Newquay	3:11	5 6	3:32	5.7
Oban	4:00	3 3	4:33	3 4
Penzance	3:00	4.7	3:20	4.8
Portland	4:22	1.6	5:03	1.5
Portsmouth	9:34	4 1	10:05	4.3
Shoreham	9:30	5.2	9:57	5.5
Southampton	9:07	4.0	9:38	4.1
Swansea	4:33	8.1	4:57	8 3
Tees	1:47	4 4	2:09	4.6
Walton-on-Naze	10:00	3.7	10:15	3.8

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Leeds, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Lossiemouth, Grampian, 0 08in, highest sunshine: Sandown, Isle of Wight, 10 7hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be dull with drizzle in the east while the west will be mainly dry with sunny spells. East Anglia will be grey and wet with the rain falling as sleet after dark. The best of the sunny weather will be in south Wales and along the Devon and Dorset coast.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly dry by day although drizzle will affect north and west facing coasts.

Inland, particularly central and southern Scotland, it will be fine with sunny spells. The Northern Isles will have rain, edging into the eastern Scottish mainland during the night.

☐ **London, Cent S, E, Cent N, NE England, E Midlands:** mainly cloudy with intermittent rain or drizzle in the east, brighter spells in the west. Wind northerly, light to moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **SE England, E Anglia:** dull and wet, especially in the east. Rain lighter after dark, falling as sleet at times. Wind northerly moderate. Feeling cold in the wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **W Midlands, Channel Is, SW England, Wales, NW England, IoM:** some sunshine, cloudy at times. Wind northerly moderate, occasionally fresh. Feeling mild. Max 9C (48F).

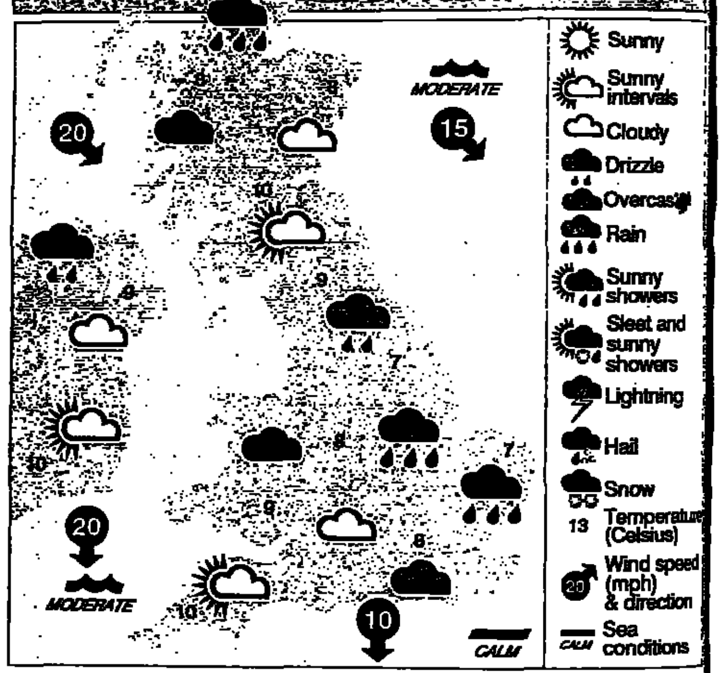
☐ **Lakes, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** cloud and sunny spells. Wind northwest light to moderate. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Aberdeen, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy and mainly dry at first. Drizzle at times, with persistent rain after dark. Wind northwesterly fresh, occasionally strong. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** rather cloudy with drizzle in places but some brighter spells as well. Wind northerly fresh. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** bright in the northwest, cloud and light rain elsewhere.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

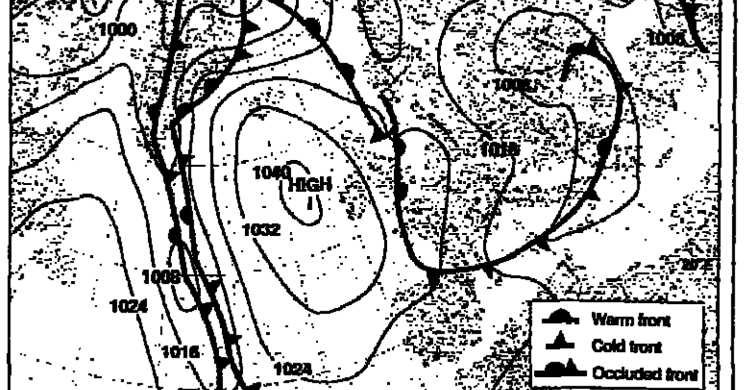
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.04	9	48	r
Anglesey	-	-	8	46	c
Aspatria	6.4	-	11	52	s
Aviemore	1.0	-	9	48	b
Belfast	1.0	-	8	46	c
Birmingham	5.0	-	9	48	b
Bognor R	10.3	-	11	52	s
Bristol	8.6	-	10	50	s
Buxton	6.3	-	7	45	s
Cardiff	9 7	-	9	48	s
Clacton	8.3	-	9	48	s
Cleethorpes	X				
Eastbourne	10.0	-	11	52	s
Edinburgh	6.7	-	12	54	s
Eskdalemuir	6.7	-	12	54	s
Exmouth	9.7	-	10	50	s
Falmouth	10 0	-	10	50	s
Fishguard	6.6	-	7	45	s
Folkestone	10.1	-	9	48	s
Glasgow	8 0	-	11	52	s
Guernsey	7.0	-	9	48	s
Hastings	9.6	-	10	50	s
Hayling I.	10 1	-	11	52	s
Herne Bay	X				
Hove	8.3	-	11	52	s
Hunstanton	6 0	-	6	43	s
Isle of Man	5.4	-	10	50	s
Jersey	7.3	-	9	48	s
Kinloss	-	0 01	9	48	c
Leeds	6.2	-	13	55	s
Lerwick	1.4	0.04	4	39	sl
Leuchars	7 2	-	13	55	s
Littlehmptn	9.8	-	11	52	s
Liverpool	5.9	-	8	46	fg
London	9 5	-	10	50	s
Lowestoft	6.2	-	9	48	c
Manchester	4.2	-	10	50	s
Margate	9.8	-	7	45	s
Minehead	10 0	-	10	50	s
Morecambe	8.4	-	9	48	s
Newcastle	6.2	-	12	54	s
Newquay	9.7	-	9	48	s
Norwich	5.3	-	9	48	s
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	9.8	-	10	50	s
Penzance	9 8	-	11	52	s
Plymouth	X				
Prestatyn	X	-	7	45	s
Ross-o-wye	7.8	-	10	50	s
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	10 7	-	11	52	s
Saunton Snd	9.9	-	10	50	s
Shrewsbury	5.1	-	10	50	s
Southend	6.6	0.01	8	46	s
Southsea	10.0	-	11	52	s
Stornoway	-	0.01	9	48	d
Swanage	9 8	-	10	50	s
Tiree	0.1	-	9	48	sh
Ventnor	9.8	-	11	52	s
Weymouth	10.0	-	11	52	s

These are Thursday's figures

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	s
Akrotiri	17	63	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f
Algiers	15	59	s
Amst'dm	5	41	d
Athens	9	48	f
B Aires	X		
Bahrain	21	70	s
Bangkok	31	88	f
Barbados	X		
Barcelona	14	57	s
Beirut	18	64	f
Belgrade	5	41	s
Berlin	3	37	f
Bermuda	X		
Biarritz	11	52	f
Borde'x	9	48	s
Brussels	5	41	d
Budapest	3	37	f
Cairo	23	73	s
Cape Tn	23	73	f
Ch'church	X		
Chicago	-7	19	s
Cologne	3	37	r
Corfu	12	54	s
C'phagn	3	37	s
Dublin	7	45	c
Dubrovnik	10	50	s
Faro	15	59	f
Florence	13	55	s
Frankfurt	3	37	c
Funchal	15	59	f
Geneva	6	43	s
Gibraltar	14	57	c
Helsinki	-2	28	s
Hong K	22	72	s
Innsbrck	4	39	c
Istanbul	2	36	f
Jeddah	32	90	s
Jo'burg	24	75	f
Karachi	X		
L Angels	14	57	f
L Palmas	19	66	c
Le Tquet	7	45	f
Lisbon	13	55	
Luxembg	3	37	c
Luxor	30	86	s
Madrid	13	55	s
Majorca	15	59	s
Malaga	13	55	f
Malta	15	59	s
Melb'rne	19	66	f
Mexico C	21	70	f
Miami	28	82	s
Milan	12	54	s
Montreal	-10	14	X
Moscow	-8	18	s
Munich	-1	30	sn
N Delhi	25	77	s
N York	0	32	s
Nairobi	27	81	f
Naples	14	57	s
Nice	14	57	s
Oslo	5	41	s
Paris	6	43	c
Peking	8	46	s
Perth	34	93	s
Prague	-2	28	sn
Reykjavik	6	43	c
Rhodes	11	52	f
Rio de J	36	97	s
Riyadh	25	77	s
Rome	13	55	s
S Fr'isco	12	54	f
S Paulo	29	84	f
Salzburg	-1	30	sn
Santiago	26	79	s
Seoul	4	39	s
Sing'por	31	88	s
St'kholm	1	34	sn
Strasb'rg	4	39	c
Sydney	22	72	f
Tangier	16	61	f
Tel Aviv	15	59	r
Tenerife	19	66	c
Tokyo	12	54	s
Toronto	-7	19	c
Tunis	15	59	c
Valencia	17	63	s
Vanc'vr	5	41	s
Venice	8	46	f
Vienna	2	36	c
Warsaw	-2	28	sn
Wash'ton	3	37	s
Well'ngton	20	68	
Zurich	3	37	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high I will continue to dominate the weather over the British Isles, the central pressure will decline and drift slowly north

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Page 8

PLUS: first voucher today, page 8

TRAVEL

Cruising: from the Med to the Caribbean

Pages 18-19

PLUS: the Coca-Cola design winner, page 16

BOOKS

Turning the tables on royal biographers

Page 10

PLUS: Lesley Thomas's cast of crazies, page 10

OUTDOORS

Simon Barnes walks the oil-fouled Welsh coast

Page 15

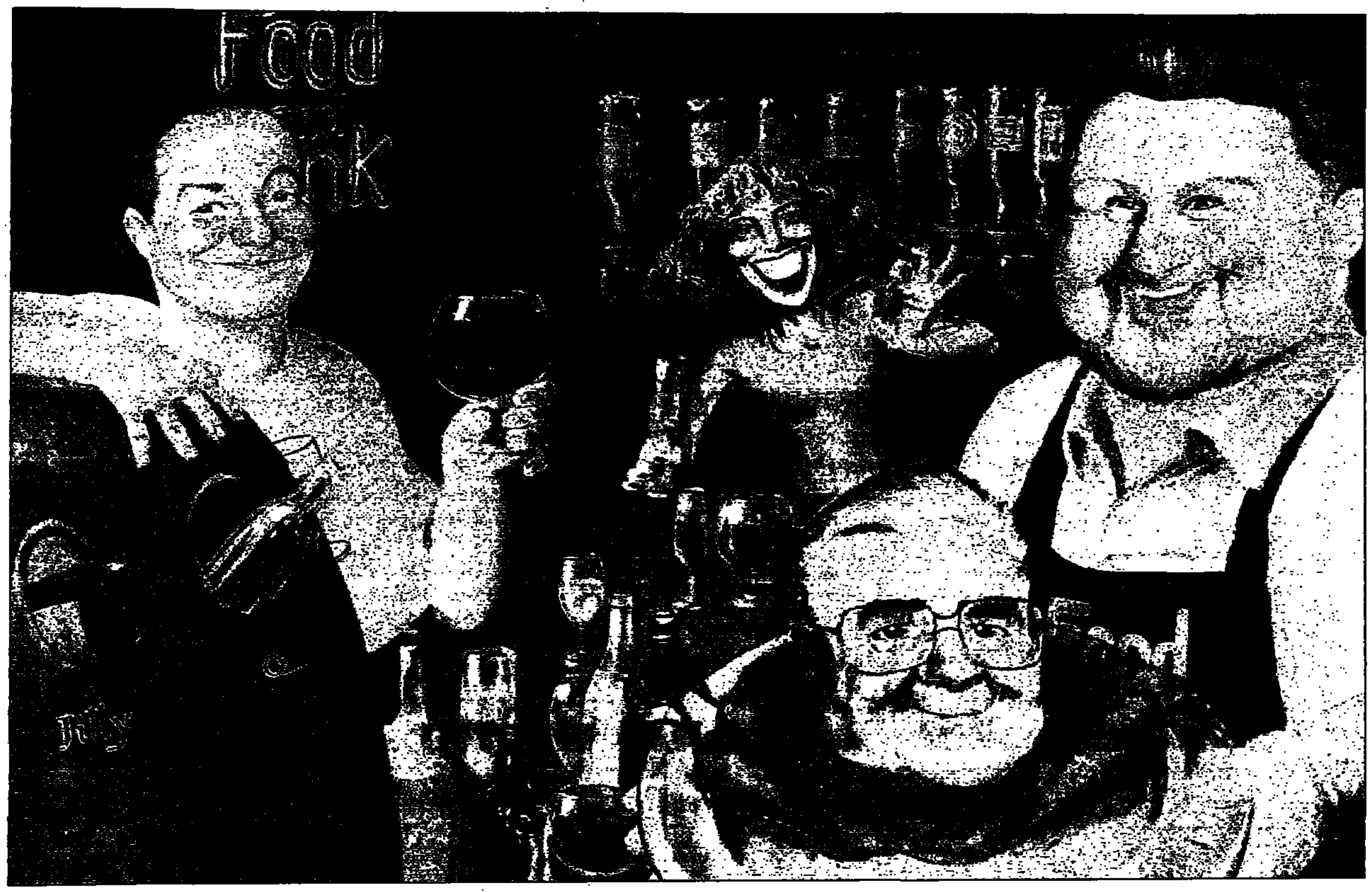
PLUS: weekend gardening tips, page 4

WEEKEND

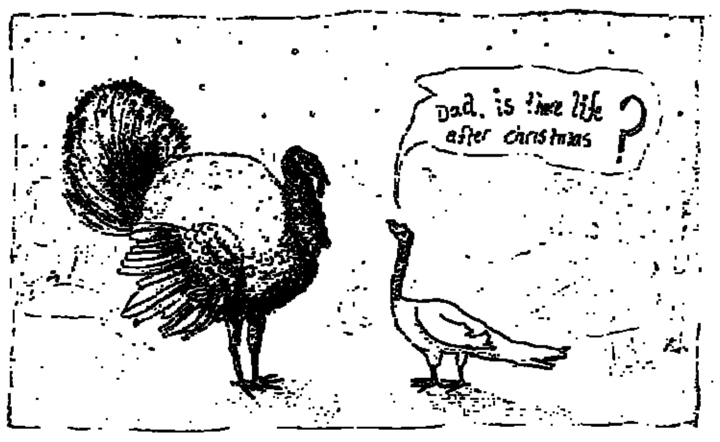
THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

THE TIMES YOUNG CARTOONISTS OF THE YEAR

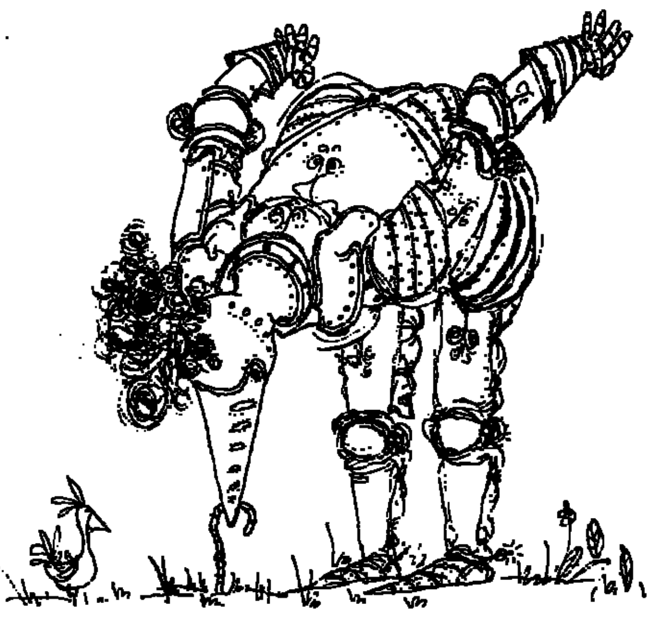
TURN TO PAGE 3



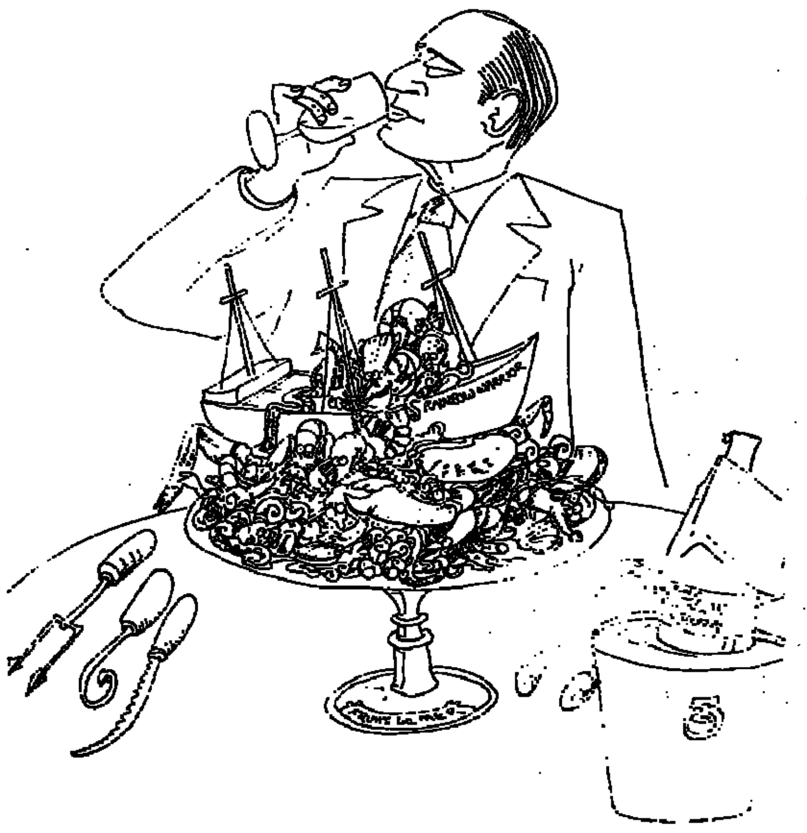
JONATHAN CUSICK, 17, from Tamworth, Staffordshire. First prize (under 30) and Overall Winner


Dad, is there life after christmas?

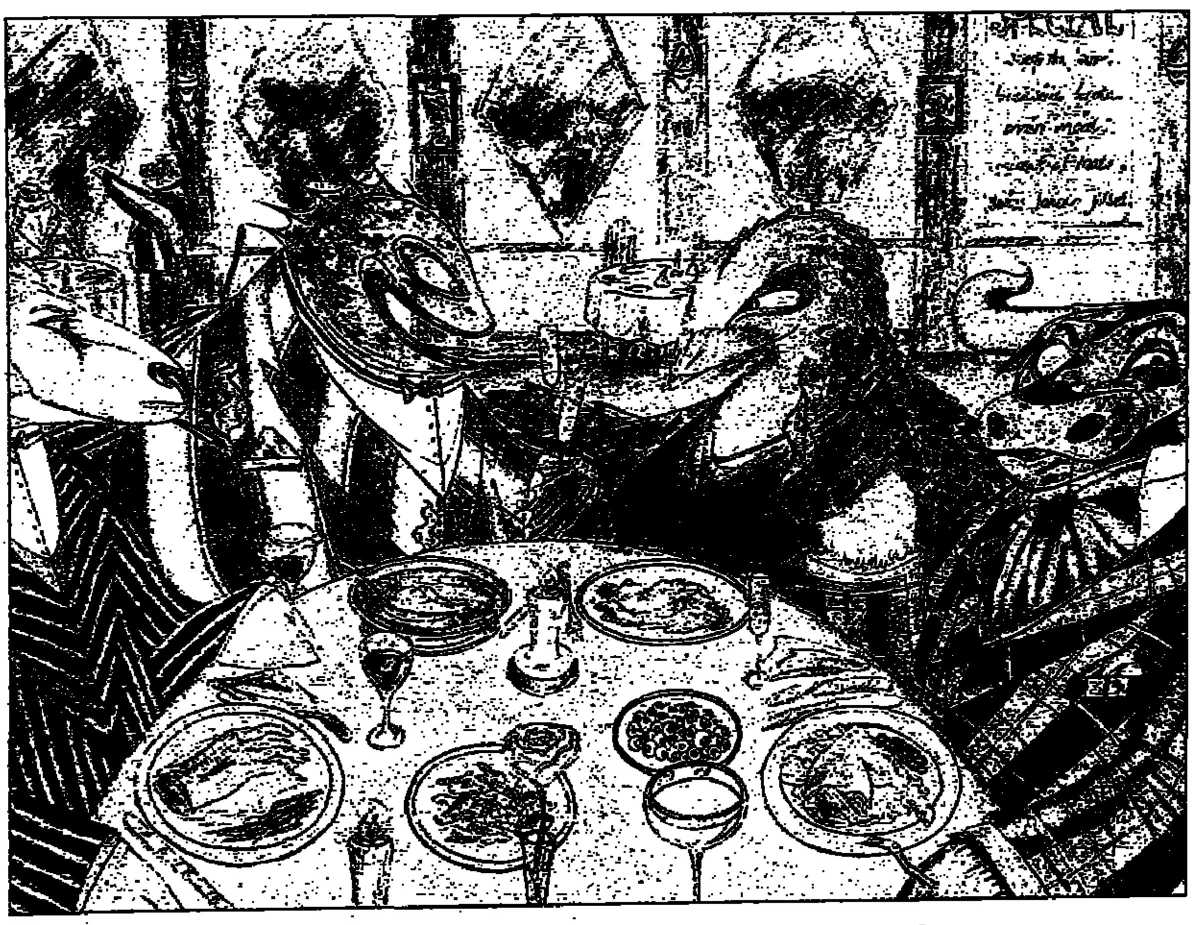
FAFA WOODWARD, 28, from Petham, Kent. Special commendation (under 30)



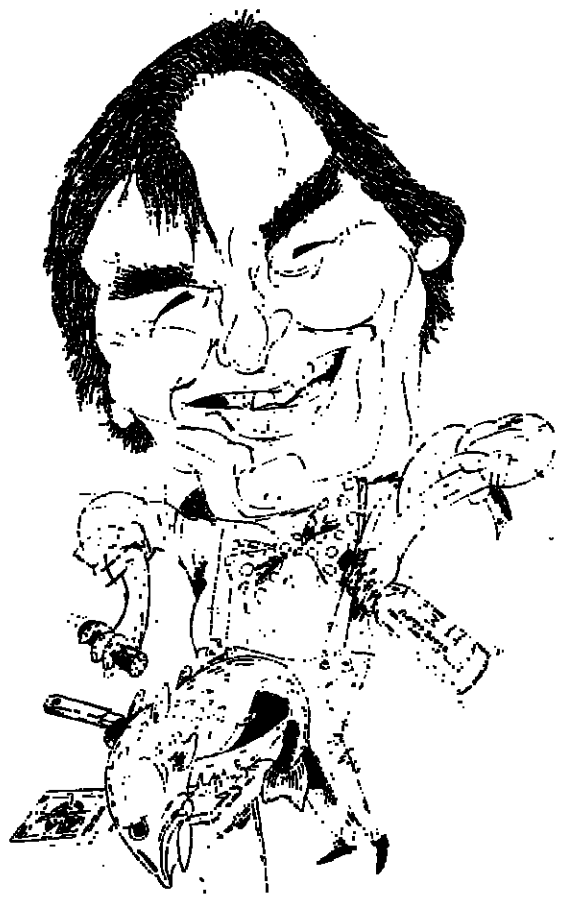
WILLIAM SPRING, 23, from Stratford-upon-Avon. Second prize (under 30)



CHRISTOPHER SHIPTON, 16, from Wheatley, Oxfordshire. Special commendation (under 18)



DYLAN HENRY LATEGAN, 16, from London. Special commendation (under 18)



LAURA TYSER, 16, from Kelso, Borders. First prize (under 18)

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CHOICE

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GALLERIES

Richard Cork

MASTERPIECES FROM THE DORIA PAMPHILJ GALLERY Founded in 1650 by Pope Innocent X, the Doria Pamphilj collection has belonged to the same family ever since. The most celebrated painting is Velázquez's consummate portrait of Innocent X himself, sumptuous in his crimson cape. But the exhibition contains superb images by other European masters. Caravaggio is at his most lyrical in a highly original *Rest on the Flight into Egypt*. Titian is represented by one of his most beguiling female figures, and Raphael's double portrait is powerful and infinitely mysterious.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (0171-839 3321), until May 19. ♿

THE BRITISH ART SHOW This large survey of hotly debated young artists has now arrived in Edinburgh. The largest part of the show, ranging from Damien Hirst to Catherine Yass, is housed in the handsome, light-filled National Gallery of Modern Art. As one of the selectors, I am delighted to see how well the artists have been treated by the other six galleries involved. At the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens, Mat Collishaw, Anya Gallaccio and Douglas Gordon are all given ideal spaces. And the same is true of the Fruitmarket Gallery, where Mark Wallinger shows with Steve McQueen and Sam Taylor-Wood. Elsewhere, at the City Art Centre, the Collective Gallery, the Stills Gallery and the Talbot Rice Gallery, further installations help to explain why new British art is attracting so much international attention.
For information about **The British Art Show**, in Edinburgh until April 28, phone 0131-220 5585.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

UNPOSTED LETTERS At the outbreak of the Second World War, the Polish artists Franciszka and Stefan Themerson had been living in Paris for two years. They both volunteered for the Polish army in France; Franciszka escaped to England in 1940 with the Polish government-in-exile, but Stefan was stranded in the Red Cross hostel for Polish soldiers in Voiron. During their two years' separation, Franciszka regularly produced pictorial letters to Stefan, reflecting on the incomprehensibility of war, although she feared that they would not survive ordeal by censorship, and so they were never sent. This is the first time the letters have been shown.
Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (0171-416 5000), daily until April 8.

RICHARD SHIRLEY SMITH The artist is widely known as one of our most brilliant wood-engravers and illustrators, but his interests range far wider than that. In recent years he has branched out successfully into mural decorations, and preparatory cartoons for some important projects feature prominently in the Bath retrospective. Very much in the line of Rex Whistler, they delight in rococo detail and elaborate illusionistic effects. Also included are the original paintings commissioned to illustrate a Folio Society edition of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and the Limited Editions Club edition of the *Poems of Lord Rochester*. Both subjects give full rein to his elegant fantasy and subtle eroticism.
Holburne Museum and Crafts Study Centre, Great Pulteney Street, Bath (01225 466669), daily until April 9. ♿

DORIA PAMPHILJ GALLERY, ROME

Caravaggio's lyrical and highly original masterpiece, *Rest on the Flight into Egypt*, is one of the many superb images on display at the National Gallery in London

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

SEMELE Last three chances to catch this all-too-brief run of one of the brightest successes of the Covent Garden season, unmissable not just for the one-off combination of Congreve at his beadiest and Handel at his most inspired, but for the London debut of the dazzling American soprano Ruth Ann Swenson, whose warmth and wit in the title role are worthy of its creators. Add Felicity Palmer's jealous Juno, Philip Langridge's suave Jupiter and Charles Mackerras in the pit, and you are somewhere near operatic heaven.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Mon 4, Wed 6, Fri 8, 7pm. ♿

THE RAKE'S PROGRESS A fresh look at one of the 20th-century's most enigmatic yet enduring operas: Mark Wigglesworth finds more warmth — and Russian colour — in Stravinsky's score than tradition has so far suggested, and Matthew Warchus's production probes deeply beneath the flippant surface of the Auden-Kallman libretto. Outstanding playing from the Welsh National Opera Orchestra; Bryn Terfel, oddly blustery on the first night, may have calmed down by now.
New Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff (01222 878889), Thur 7, 7.15pm. ♿

DANCE

John Percival

SCOTTISH OLD AND NEW Bournonville's great old classic *La Sylphide* has long been a jewel in Scottish Ballet's repertoire. For this revival, it is joined by a new work from Mark Baldwin, *Ae Fond Kiss* — title by Burns but music by Stravinsky, from *The Fairy's Kiss*.
Theatre Royal, Glasgow ♿ (0141-332 9000), Thur 7 to Sat 16, except Sunday and Monday, at 7.15pm; matinées: Sats and Thur 14, 2.15pm; **Edinburgh Festival Theatre** ♿ (0131-529 6000), March 19-23; **His Majesty's**, Aberdeen ♿ (01224 641122), March 26-30; **Eden Court**, Inverness ♿ (01463-234234), April 3-6; **Theatre Royal**, Newcastle ♿ (0191-232 2061), April 9-13; **New Theatre**, Hull ♿ (01482-226655), April 16-20.

Members of the Scottish Ballet in a scene from *La Sylphide*

DON QUIXOTE Will it be third time lucky for the Northern Ballet Theatre in tackling a new version of Cervantes's story? Christopher Gable and Michael Barrett-Pink are providing choreography and production, but retaining highlights of the traditional *Don Quixote* ballet. Philip Feeney has written new music to supplement the score by Minkus, Drigo, Glazunov and Brian Fieldhouse.
Grand Theatre, Leeds ♿ (0113-245 9351), Mon 4 to Sat 9, 7.30pm; matinées: Thur, 2pm; Sat, 2.30pm; **Theatre Royal**, Nottingham ♿ (0115-948 2626), March 12-16; **Lyceum**, Sheffield ♿ (0114-276 9922), April 16-20; **New Victoria**, Woking ♿ (01483-761144), April 23-27.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME Long, ponderous title; tough, moving play that is likely to seem even more timely than when Patrick Mason's fine production came to the Edinburgh Festival last summer. Its author, Frank McGuinness, comes from a Catholic, Republican background; but his play makes a sympathetic attempt to enter the heads of Ulster soldiers for whom the Germans present a lesser threat to their Protestant redoubt than the Fenian foe back in Ireland.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Wed 6 to Sat 16, 7.15pm; matinées: Sat 9, Thur 14, Sat 16, 2pm. ♿

THE GLASS MENAGERIE Sam Mendes's revival gives Tennessee Williams's memory-play more bite but also more feeling than unusual. Zoë Wanamaker, playing Williams's mother, is less a cracked Southern belle, more an embattled single parent, whose daughter, in Claire Skinner's performance, is quietly sinking beneath the waves of a troubled psyche.
Comedy, Panton Street, London SW1 (0171-369 1731), 7.30pm; matinées: Saturdays, 3pm. ♿

JAZZ

Clive Davis

MILES AHEAD Miles Davis's collaborations with the arranger Gil Evans re-defined orchestral jazz. As part of the Towards the Millennium festival, Markus Stenz and the London Sinfonietta will perform concert versions of *Miles Ahead* and *Sketches of Spain*. Davis himself returned to this field at the Montreux Festival just weeks before his death. Guy Barker and Lew Soloff are the players who have been assigned the daunting task of invoking his ghost this week. The South Bank concert also features a recital by Joanna MacGregor, while the saxophonist Tommy Smith and his band fill the guest slot in Birmingham.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 ♿ (0171-960 4242), Mon 4, 7.45pm; **Symphony Hall**, Birmingham ♿ (0121-212 3333) Tues 5, 7.30pm.

Tommy Smith plays saxophone in a tribute to Miles Davis

ANNIE ROSS Jazz singing is not just about multi-octave gymnastics. Annie Ross, one of the stars of Robert Altman's cult film *Short Cuts*, may not be the acrobat she was in the days of the audacious trio Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, yet she brings all the intensity of a seasoned actress to her ballads and torch songs. *Bye, Bye, Blackbird* never sounded sultrier.
Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5271), Mon 4 to Sat 30, 9.15pm and 11.15pm.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (U) Jane Austen's novel about the Dashwood daughters and their winding paths to romantic fulfilment gets kid-glove treatment from director Ang Lee and his scriptwriter, Emma Thompson. She, of course, plays Sense, the eldest daughter Elinor, afraid to give her heart full rein: though the performance you notice comes from Kate Winslet as the impetuous Marianne. Hard not to notice Hugh Grant, too. As Edward Ferrars, Elinor's shy admirer, he behaves so stiffly that he looks stuffed.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742); **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720), **West End** (0171-369 1722), **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666); **Screen on the Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366).

STRANGE DAYS (18) The director Kathryn Bigelow lets rip with Hollywood's latest technology to create a nightmarish Los Angeles on the brink of the millennium. Ralph Fiennes is the squalid hero, a former cop turned black marketeer whose trafficking in virtual reality brings him up against rape, murder and police brutality. The story and characters leave much to be desired, and Bigelow is not above playing the voyeur while violence runs rampant.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031); **Plaza** (0171-437 1234); **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332); **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343).

ROCK

David Sinclair

MICHAEL BOLTON Critics have been writing him off as a spent force (and making jokes about his hairstyle) for most of the 1990s. But for all his schmaltzy, showboating tendencies, Michael Bolton does have an extraordinarily powerful voice anchored in the R & B traditions of Ray Charles and Otis Redding. Currently promoting his *Greatest Hits 1985-1995* album, he will be singing plenty of old favourites, along with a special operatic interlude which will doubtless induce fresh palpitations among the nation's tastemakers. Support on all dates is from "new classic soul" stars Solo.
Wembley Arena ♿ (0181-900 1234), Mar 6, 8, 9; **Newcastle Arena** ♿ (0191-401 8000), Mar 11; **NEC**, Birmingham ♿ (0121-780 4133), Mar 13, 14; **Manchester Arena** ♿ (0161-834 4477), Mar 19; **SECC**, Glasgow (0141-248 9999), Mar 20.

DREADZONE Their surprise hit, *Little Britain*, which brightened up the post-Christmas chart, has given Dreadzone a new lease of life. The band which was started by refugees from Big Audio Dynamite, have mixed dub, dance, reggae and ambient influences to offer a distinctive musical vision that reflects the changing national identity of Britain in the 1990s.
Sheffield University ♿ (01142 753300), Mar 6; **Arches**, Glasgow (0141-556 5555), Mar 7; **Que Club**, Birmingham (0121-643 6103), Mar 8; **Manchester University** ♿ (0161-832 1111), Mar 9; **Cardiff University** ♿ (01222 230130), Mar 11; **Leicester University** ♿ (0115-934 2060), Mar 12; **Southampton University** ♿ (01703 632601), Mar 13; **Shepherds Bush Empire**, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Mar 16.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

FIFTIES FESTIVAL The ten-year Towards the Millennium project in Birmingham and London, celebrating a different decade of the 20th century each spring, has reached the 1950s. That poses a knotty problem for the marketing people. True, Britten and Bernstein wrote tuneful music during that decade, but it was also the heyday of Stockhausen and Boulez. Simon Rattle dives in at the deep end: his opening concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra links Stravinsky and Messiaen with one of the great avant-garde works of the day: Stockhausen's *Gruppen* for three orchestras. This will be played twice, allowing (in Birmingham at least) the audience to move around and experience its unique spatial qualities from a different angle.
Symphony Hall, Broad St, Birmingham ♿ (0121-212 3333), tonight, 7pm; **Festival Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 ♿ (0171-960 4242), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

VIENNA PIONEERS Vienna Concentus Musicus, the groundbreaking period-instrument group, makes a welcome return to London to play a Haydn programme under the provocative direction of its founder, Nikolaus Harnoncourt. It should be one of the most stimulating concerts of the season.
Barbican, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Mon 4, 7.30pm. ♿

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **1953**: Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache*, updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. An interesting conceit that nearly works. Impressive acting
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm ♿

◪ **THE CHANGING ROOM**: David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. Third in the season of Royal Court Classics
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. ♿

◪ **CHAPTER TWO**: Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

□ **COMMUNICATING DOORS**: Angela Thorne in Ayckbourn's ingenious time-travel play, fleeing from a vengeful enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a couple of decades
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

□ **THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**: Samantha Bond and Michael Sheen in new David Lan play, set in the Balkans where a geologist, to save his ill daughter, must make an impossible sacrifice: to give up smoking. Andrei Serban directs
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. In rep ♿

◪ **GULP FICTION**: Eddie Nestor and Robbie Gee (from The Posse) play two ex-cons strangely named Reggie and Ronnie, who find life back in the East End a tough challenge after the easy years behind bars. A buoyant evening.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310), Tue-Sat, 8pm ♿

□ **HEAVEN BY STORM**: The Umbilical Brothers, otherwise the Australian acrobatic comedians Shane Dundas and Dave Collins, bring their ingenious and alluring show to London
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132) Mon-Sat, 8pm

□ **LAUGHING WILD**: Christopher Durang's comedy about a couple of seriously crazy New Yorkers, one hysterical, the other nerdish, and too crazy for the play's good
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255) Tue-Thurs, Sat and Sun, 7.45pm, Fri, 8.15pm; mats Sat and Sun, 2.30pm ♿

Molière updated: Ken Stott stars in *The Misanthrope*

■ **LEE EVANS**: The rubber-boned comedian comes to the West End for a short season
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5049), Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm

◪ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Penny Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085), Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

◪ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT**: Philip Schofield plays the lad with the pretty jacket in a nine-week revival of the first Lloyd Webber/Rice creation
Labatt's Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6082), Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **THE MISANTHROPE**: Ken Stott and Elizabeth McGovern in an updated version of Molière, too updated for the play's real good but vigorously acted.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm ♿

□ **PRESENT LAUGHTER**: Peter Bowles is Gary Essendine in Noël Coward's exaggerated self-portrait of a star pursued by devotees and love-hating every minute of it. Richard Olivier directs, Caroline Langrishe and Deborah Grant co-star.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-379 3367) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

◪ **SERVING IT UP**: Second in the "London Fragments" season. This time: East London racism, easy violence and paranoia, by Romford-born David Eldridge. Tough, grim stuff.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm

■ **SKYLIGHT**: Michael Gambon and Lia Williams, with Daniel Betts, in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. Richard Eyre directs this National Theatre transfer
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm

□ **SLAUGHTER CITY**: New play, savage and surreal, set in a slaughterhouse, by Naomi Wallace. Essentially a piece about labour conditions. Confusing but vivid
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm; mat today, 2pm. In rep ♿

■ **SWEET PANIC**: Stephen Poliakoff's thought-provoking play about the awfulness of working as a child psychologist in an urban nightmare. Harriet Walter and Saskia Reeves both excellent.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm ♿

■ **TOMMY**: Pete Townshend's famous musical stars the 19-year-old hitherto unknown Paul Keating as the deaf, dumb and blind pinball wizard, with Kim Wilde as his mum
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Now previewing, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Opens Mar 5, 7pm. ♿

□ **VALLEY SONG**: Athol Fugard's first play since the end of apartheid interestingly mourns aspects of the past while welcoming, with degrees of enthusiasm, the future. Fugard himself acts two roles.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) □ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) ◪ **Funny Money**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) . ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) . ◪ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) .. □ **Mack and Mabel**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) . ■ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) .. ■ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) .. ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

FRENCH TWIST (18): Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

LA MADRE MUERTA (18): Murderer becomes obsessed with the child witness to a killing. Perverse Spanish psychodrama directed by Juanma Bajo Ulloa.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

STRANGE DAYS (18): See Critics' Choice, above

◆ **WHEN SATURDAY COMES** (15): Can Sean Bean make the grade with Sheffield United? Do we care? With Emily Lloyd. Director, Maria Giese.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeon West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

BED OF ROSES (PG): Witting, whimsical romance set in a fairy-tale New York, with Mary Stuart Masterson and Christian Slater.
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

◆ **CASINO** (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ♿ (0171-437 1234) ♿ **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **DESPERADO** (18): Overblown follow-up to *El Mariachi*, with Antonio Banderas as the guitar-playing killer seeking vengeance. Director, Robert Rodriguez.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (15): Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses, police and corruption. From Walter Mosley's novel
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II** (PG): Steve Martin faces the patter of tiny feet. Bland comedy sequel, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

GOLDENEYE: (12). Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour.
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

◆ **HEAT** (15). LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann
MGMs: Fulham Rd ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD (PG): A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, directed by Frank Oz
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams.
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Rd** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18). Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue

Ewen Bremner and Ewan McGregor: *Trainspotting*

MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

JOHNNY MNEMONIC (15): The Yakuza want the contents of Keanu Reeves's head. Futuristic folly from cyberpunk author William Gibson
Warner ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LITTLE PRINCESS** (U): Marvellous rendering of the children's classic, with Liesel Matthews as the boarding school girl plunged from riches to rags.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LOCH NESS** (PG): Ted Danson looks for Nessie in a dull, harmless adventure. With Joely Richardson. Director, John Henderson
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

OTHELLO (12): Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Lively version for general audiences. Director, Oliver Parker
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

SABRINA (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Sydney Pollack directs.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **TRAINSPOTTING** (18): Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the *Shallow Grave* team. With Ewan McGregor and Ewen Bremner. Director, Danny Boyle.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

ULYSSES' GAZE (PG): Portentous epic with striking moments from Greek master Theo Angelopoulos, with Harvey Keitel as a film-maker journeying through the Balkans
Lumiere (0171-836 0691) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15): Crude comedy-drama about black women's men problems. With Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett; director, Forest Whitaker
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

هكذا من الأصل

Thirteen-year-old Juliet Webb's *Chocolate Dancer* impressed judge Steve Bell

Jonathan Cusick, 17, the overall winner, hopes that his tutor will take him more seriously now. "People think I'm wasting my time on cartoons"

'The hundreds who entered the competition found out how easy Mel Calman made it look'

Christopher Shipton, 16, with his *Fruits de Mer*

You can look at a Cézanne, or read *Nicholas Nickleby*, and say: "I know Cézanne is a great painter, or that Dickens writes well, but they're just not my cup of tea." But you can't listen to a joke or stare at a cartoon and say: "I know this is really hilarious, but I just don't happen to find it funny."

Everyone has their own sense of humour, just like everyone has their own nose. But while a personal nose for each of us has many advantages — for example, all mankind doesn't have to collectively bend over a flowerbed every time one of us sniffs a daffodil — not having a collective sense of humour makes life tricky in certain situations: such as a Glasgow pub late on a Friday night, or watching Bob Monkhouse on telly, or judging a cartoon competition.

Claire Calman, who helped to judge the Mel Calman Awards handed out this week to seven talented young cartoonists, recalls when her father and fellow cartoonist Posy Simmonds were judging a cartoon competition. Sifting through the entries, they found the calibre depressing. Suddenly Calman cheered up. "There is a bright side to all this," he told Simmonds. "It shows that it's hard to draw cartoons and that we're all right for work."

The hundreds who entered *The Times* Young Cartoonist of the Year competition — which was launched in conjunction with the British Cartoonists' Association last autumn in honour of Mel Calman — found out just how hard cartooning is, and how deceptively easy Mel Calman made it look in those funny, wicked, mischievous or moving pocket cartoons he drew for *The Times* front page for 15 years.

"You can't train a cartoonist," says Peter Brookes, *The Times*'s political cartoonist and another of the judges. "They just emerge. A lot of people think that the drawing is important, but it's not as important as the idea.

"The overall standard of drawing in the competition was good. But it's ideas that count. A cartoon is something that makes you think. You don't have to laugh at a cartoon. It doesn't have to be funny but it must be something that makes you sit up."

Simmonds, also on the judging panel, agrees that "ideas are the first thing that have to be right. Look at Thurber's drawings. He couldn't really draw — but he had the ideas. And Gary Larson: his drawing is very simple, but his cartoons are absolutely wonderful."

Yet even when you have struck on an idea, the humour still pivots on the phrasing of the caption. Simmonds, who has been drawing her brilliant cartoons since she was eight, tells the story of how Calman, offering an elder statesman's helping hand to a rising talent, suggested a revision on one of her early captions. She recalls: "One teddy bear was asking another bear, 'Are you going to sleep with me tonight?' and Calman said, '*Aren't* is much funnier'."

But while she found "very few jokes" among the entries, "no strip cartoons, and certainly nothing like Calman used to do", she thought the winning caricature of BBC2's *Food And Drink* team by 17-year-old Jonathan Cusick "was incredibly good. Technically, it's a very good drawing and a very good likeness."

Cusick, from Tamworth, Staffordshire, was jolted when he won the overall prize, not just because of his youth and because his art course tutor at the University of Central England was dismissive of this area of his talents, but because the Royal Mail had assured him that his competition entry — which he had sent by recorded delivery — had been lost in the Christmas post. "So when I got the letter saying that I'd been chosen I was flabbergasted."

He says — but doesn't moan — that "people at art school don't take me seriously because I'm into caricatures and cartoons. They think I haven't grown up yet. They say I'm wasting my time. My tutor last year told me that there were thousands of illustrators who could do what I do. He said the illustration boom was in the 1980s and was all over now. I never believed him. When I showed him the letter from the competition he said, 'You're a crafty bugger'. So perhaps now he'll start taking me seriously. He won't forget this in a hurry."

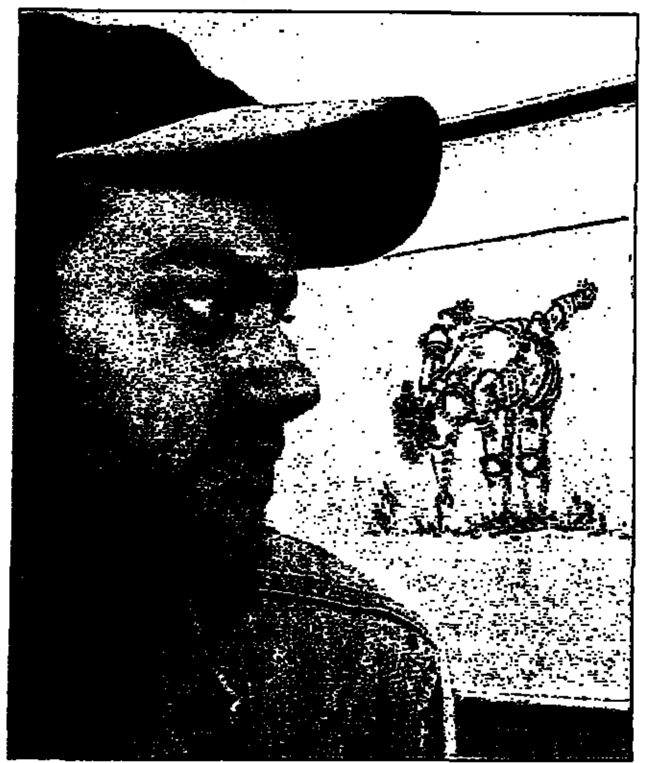
This sort of doggedness will probably secure Cusick's success. Having become entranced by Paul Slater's illustrations in *The Times* Magazine on Saturdays, Cusick wrote to Slater, seeking advice about how to gain a foothold in the business.

"My parents took me down to his house and we spent some time together, and he has been very helpful. He told me to just keep working ideas through, just keep practising; not to be too impatient. He's a big influence on me."

Cusick has also spent time at the studios of *Spitting Image* "doing caricatures and looking for advice. I was only 14 when I went there. They said the work was very good for my age and said it had prospects for the future."

In 1992, when he was barely out of short trousers, he pitched up at a seminar for an MA course in cartoon imagery, where he first set eyes on Calman, Ralph Steadman, and Steve Bell as well as Roger Law from *Spitting Image*. But he has never entered any competition for cartoonists before because, he says, there aren't many, "so when this came out I was pleased as punch and made the best effort I could. My mother thinks it's wonderful."

Keith Floyd proved a winner for Laura Tyson, 16



William Spring, 23, with *Peeking Knight*

Laura Tyser, the 16-year-old farmer's daughter who won the under-18 section with her caricature of the telly chef Keith Floyd, has also focused more on a cartooning future since entering the competition. Studying for Scottish Highers in art, maths, French and English at Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, Tyser said it was only her mother's prodding that persuaded her to try her luck. Until now, the school magazine has been her main outlet. She feels that pocket cartoons are "still a bit advanced for me yet. I hope I can move on to try that."

David Driver, head of design at *The Times* and another of the award judges, says he wasn't too surprised that more drawings turned out to be caricatures than pocket cartoons.

"People tend, when they are drawing at school or for their own amusement, to do caricatures rather than political cartoons, and since the framework for this competition was very open, this was obviously why there were more caricatures than political or pocket cartoons. So next year we may narrow down the brief."

Driver, who has always been sceptical about the volume of hidden cartooning talent waiting to be discovered, was heartened by the quality of the entries: "I honestly thought it was going to be far more gloomy than it turned out."

Claire Calman is also hoping next year's competition will "see people taking a bit more in the way of risk. Cartooning is anarchic by nature, and you don't get anywhere without taking risks." But she still spotted "a few promising people and you thought, 'Yeah, if they stick at it, they might make it'."

Steve Bell, *The Guardian* cartoonist who has put John Major's underpants on the map and on the outside of his trousers, was a little disappointed at the lack of jokes but impressed by the quality of drawing. "I thought the stuff from the younger entrants was better than the older stuff. I was looking for cartoonists who made me laugh, but that's a tall order. There wasn't much in the way of political cartooning. The one of the girl dancer craving chocolate tickled me. That's one of my favourites.

"All I can say is we need more cartoonists. I don't want to put anyone off. Just keep doing it."

So how did Bell get ahead? "I used to do it at school — I used to draw in the flyleaves of books. I drew teachers and politicians. When I started out I was crap, as we all are when we start. But you learn cartooning by practising." Any big influences? "*The Beano*. It changed my life."

For those who keep practising, the future is not orange but golden, according to Brookes — although he winces and grows wistful at stories about how David Low, when he drew for *The Guardian*, was paid more than the newspaper's editor.

"Ten years ago there was only one broadsheet political cartoonist — that was Garland. Now every newspaper has one. Gag cartoons are also flourishing because magazines such as *The Spectator* and *Private Eye* are giving more prominence to them." He says editors realise that "in a television age, people can catch the essence of a story in a nanosecond through a cartoon. An article can't do that. "People are taking cartoons much more seriously these days."

JOE JOSEPH

Fafa Woodward's humorous offering won her a special commendation

Photographs by MARTIN BEDDALL

Ruth Gledhill goes on retreat in the Yorkshire Dales

Spirit of community

TRY AS it might, no church can ever quite compete with the natural architecture of the Yorkshire Dales in evoking a sense of the presence of God. As a Christian retreat, Scargill House has an elevated feel because of the stark and spectacular nature of the created order around it.

We joined about 70 people from different parishes in the area on a "living prayer" weekend. Many confessed that they returned repeatedly to the centre, finding there a retreat from the institutional Christianity of their churches as well as from the pressures of work and secular life. During our stay we were looked after by the resident community of about 40 people, mostly young, single men and women who opt for a quasi-monastic lifestyle for a period of their lives. Sometimes the community members, who do everything from washing up to playing guitars and leading worship, stay for years. Members, who promise to commit themselves to community life, receive only a small weekly allowance plus board and lodging. According to the Rev Margaret Cundiff's *Miracle in the Dales*, the story of Scargill House, the community members are a family in deed as well as word, who bear witness to Christ "by their corporate lifestyle as well as by their individual personalities".

Our discussion group was led by John Wilson, a Roman Catholic lay chaplain, who turned out to be a mine of wise sayings such as: "We are often so busy thinking about the future and worrying about yesterday that we forget about today." His aim was to show us that prayer and communion need not be divorced from daily living but could become an integral part of it. Mr Wilson asked us to reflect on how the Lord's Prayer related to our daily lives. Some of us pondered on the line: "Lead us not into temptation." Beryl, a missionary who had recently returned from years in Argentina to find this country equally in need of mission, reflected that the individual had to take some responsibility where temptation was concerned. "It is a bit like an alcoholic who chooses to go into a bar. They know they will be tempted to drink," she said.

The highlight of a day which also included worship and meals was a two-hour walk in the freezing wind, rain and sleet which descended in the afternoon dusk. Scargill House takes its name from the natural wall of grey limestone, or "scar", behind it and the "ghyll" or dry gully beside it. During what turned out to be both a spiritual and a physical workout, residents and those on retreat said they found that the open air was more conducive to confessing difficulties and making spiritual progress. Scargill House, like the better-known communities at Iona in Scotland and Taizé in France, is one of a growing number of modern Christian communities which have thrived as the mainstream churches have declined in an era of rapid social change. As Mrs Cundiff says in her book, it may be that such communities "are part of God's answer to the needs of the church and society today".

Scargill House will feature on Yorkshire Television's Tonight *programme on Wednesday, March 6, in the second of eight brief features about where to worship in Yorkshire, presented by Ruth Gledhill.*

Scargill House, Kettlewell, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5HU (01756 760234).

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five star guide* ★

WARDEN:
The Rev Keith Knight.

ARCHITECTURE:
A "gentleman's residence" and farmhouse, converted and opened in 1959, with a Scandinavian-style church added on. ★★★★

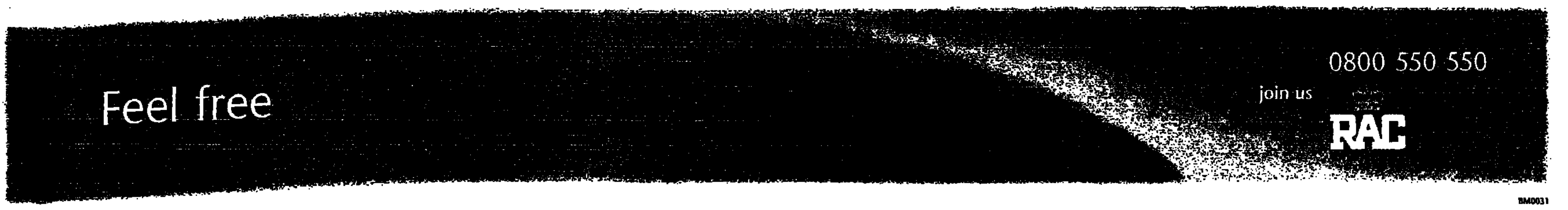
SERMON:
Meditative analysis of the New Testament story of Mary and Martha. ★★★

MUSIC:
Peaceful modern worship songs such as *Be Still for the Presence of the Lord* and *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, based on the prayer of St Francis. ★★★★

LITURGY:
Evening prayer from the *1980 Alternative Service Book*. ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
Faith to climb mountains. ★★★★

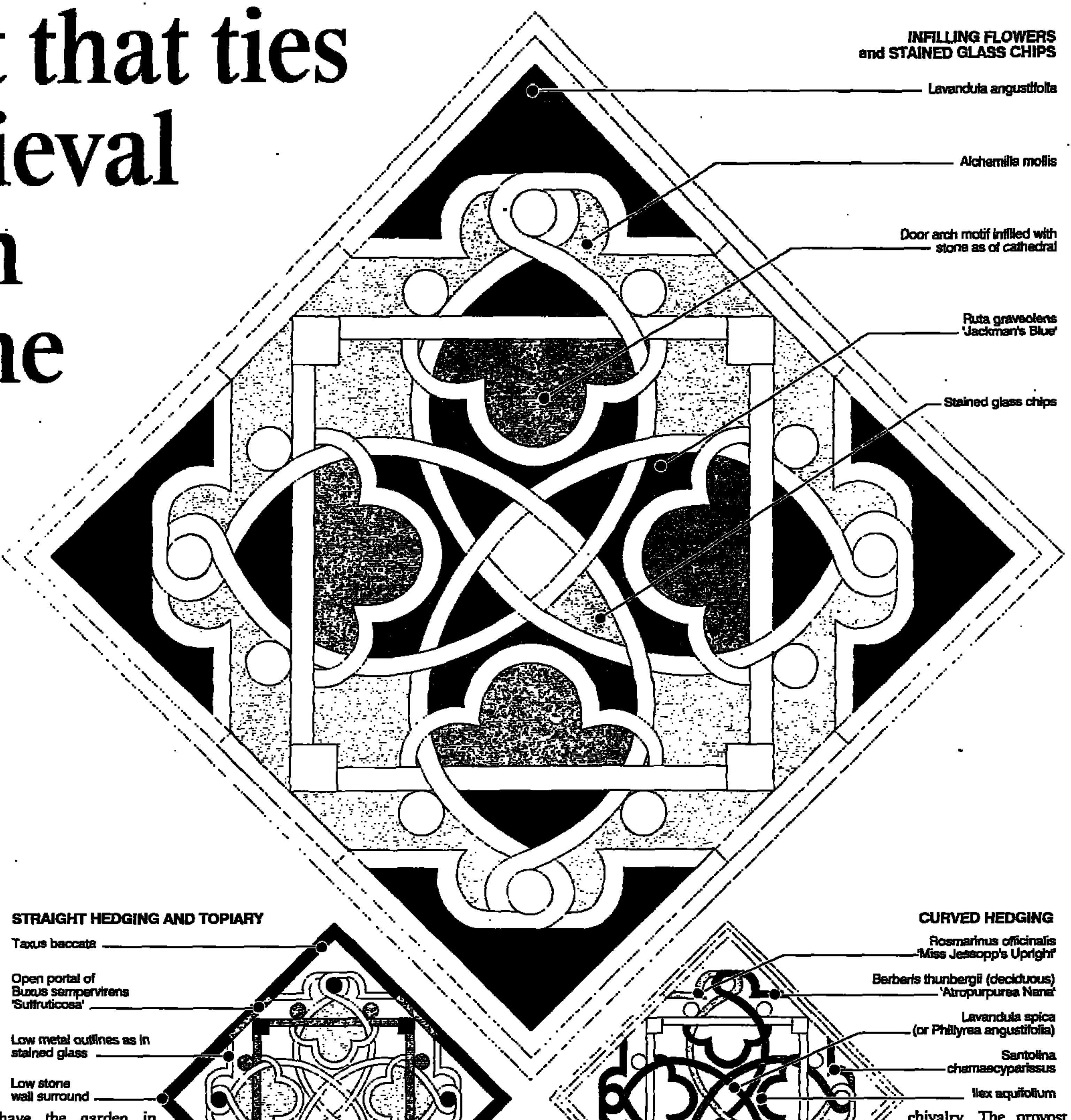
AFTER-SERVICE CARE:
Party dance, epilogue in chapel and drinks. ★★★★★



This spring an English garden from Shakespeare's time will be planted in the heart of London

A knot that ties a medieval garden with the Globe

Michèle Renouf inspired and designed the knot garden due to be planted at Southwark


INFILLING FLOWERS and STAINED GLASS CHIPS
Lavandula angustifolia
Alchemilla mollis
Door arch motif infilled with stone as of cathedral
Ruta graveolens 'Jackman's Blue'
Stained glass chips
STRAIGHT HEDGING AND TOPIARY
Taxus baccata
Open portal of Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa'
Low metal outlines as in stained glass
Low stone wall surround
CURVED HEDGING
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Miss Jessopp's Upright'
Berberis thunbergii (deciduous) 'Atropurpurea Nana'
Lavandula spica (or Phillyrea angustifolia)
Santolina chemaecyparissus
Ilex aquifolium

A new Elizabethan garden is about to be sown and planted in the heart of London. It will be a companion piece to the Globe Theatre, the full-scale replica of an Elizabethan playhouse inspired by the late Sam Wanamaker. The garden — a knot garden — will be in the grounds of Southwark Cathedral, a stone's throw from the theatre, which is due to open in July.

The garden is the idea of Lady (Michèle) Renouf, who is a member of the Globe Appeals Advisory Committee. She is better known as an actress in television commercials, including appearances for Oil of Ulay and After Eight chocolates. Japanese viewers have seen her as an English hostess pouring Nescafé at Hever Castle in Kent.

Renouf, an Australian, has many other interests, all in different ways connected with "the vanities and dignities involved in human packaging", as she puts it. She has designed ballet costumes, done interior decorating, taught stage design and studio pottery and, in the late 1980s, studied garden design at the English Gardening School, at the Chelsea Physic Garden.

She met Wanamaker socially and was so inspired by his vision for the Globe that she suggested including an Elizabethan garden in his plans. At first, the intention was to have the garden in front of the house of the Provost of Southwark Cathedral, which is adjacent to the Globe. But it has now been agreed that it should be in the churchyard, where there is an admirable space, about 21 feet square, by the cathedral wall and visible to passers-by. The cathedral has always considered it had a connection with Shakespeare and celebrates his birthday each year.

Knot gardens are formal gardens in which low hedges of box and yew form an interlaced pattern, infilled with flowers or other decoration. The first English reference to them appears to be a payment to a gardener at Thornbury Castle, Gloucestershire, in 1520 "for diligence in making knottes".

Renouf has based her design on one of the many fine "knottes" illustrated in a book of 1638, Lawson's *The Country House-wife's Garden*. But in authentic Elizabethan style she has introduced motifs of her own, such as echoes of the cathedral's triple-arched doorways. These doorways are supposed to symbolise welcome and access for all, and in the garden design the form of the arches will be "drawn" in holly to symbolise, in turn, Jesus's crown of thorns and the need for compassion.

The provost, the Very Rev Colin Slee, has asked her to try to include some "fun" conceits that will amuse visiting schoolchildren, such as the outlines of the distinctive heads of the family in the *The Simpsons* television cartoon. She thinks the head of Bart, the son, like the zigzag top of a paperbag, and the star-shaped head of the daughter, Lisa, will be "a godsend for topiary".

For the infill, she does not want to use the stolid, Victorian-style infill used, for instance, in the garden that has been re-created at New Place in Stratford. In most early English gardens, she says, the flowers were planted more individually, with space between them, to bring out their preciousness, especially when exotic flowers such as tulips arrived in England.

She proposes seasonal changes in the flowers, which will sometimes be more densely planted, sometimes more individually. The flowers — marjoram, rue, pansies, primroses — will be chosen for their symbolic meaning as well as their beauty, and will be accompanied by little enamelled flags inscribed with the flower's name and a Shakespearean allusion to it: "Indeed, sir, she was the sweet marjoram of the salad, or rather, the herb of grace," or "There is pansies, that's for thoughts". The curved hedges will be of dwarf berberis, lavender and rosemary.

The Elizabethans also used infillings such as coloured chalk or brick dust for dramatic effect, and Renouf plans to use glittering coloured glass in the centre knots, hoping it may be regularly replaced by the Guild of Glaziers nearby.

The whole garden in Elizabethan times was, in fact, a nest of symbols and allegories, and Renouf would like to see, in addition, heraldic figures on white and green painted posts among the flowerbeds and borders, catching the sunlight, adding a theatrical flourish and reminding visitors of the code of chivalry. The provost hopes to go further and, in due course, create a complementary garden by the side of the one about to be planted. This will be a monastic herb garden, to celebrate another aspect of medieval interest in plants — the healing activities of the church. In Southwark, this goes back to the founding of St Thomas' Hospital by the cathedral monks.

Renouf met some opposition when she first mooted her idea. This came from the architect of the Globe, Theo Crosby, who said he wanted an ambience of bear-baiting and brothels around the theatre, not a knot garden. Renouf wrote back a spirited letter saying that there would plenty of the modern equivalent of those around the place, and signed the letter "Mistress Quickly", to suggest that she was a bit more than the precious soul he took her for. He did not yield, but Wanamaker and his colleagues still liked the idea and it went forward again after Crosby's death.

It is hoped that the Fabric Advisory Committee of the cathedral will shortly give approval to the garden. That final hurdle passed, the provost and Mistress Quickly will soon be out in the spring sunshine, "diligently making knottes".

DERWENT MAY

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to reader's letters

Q I have two established and productive bush apple trees (Bramley and Newton Wonder) both affected with bitter pit. I am told to spray them while in leaf with a calcium compound. What is this and where do I get it? — J.W. McCloy, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

A Bitter pit is a problem of the fruit only and appears as small, brown sunken areas of skin and more small, brown marks throughout the flesh. To minimise the problem, first make sure that the trees never lack for water, perhaps by giving them a mulch as well as water in dry periods. Second, spray with hydrated calcium nitrate to increase calcium levels in the shoots and fruit. Lack of calcium is thought to be a contributory cause of bitter pit. For a brochure and instructions on using calcium nitrate, contact Garden Direct, Geddings Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 0LR (01992 441888).

Q My 80-year-old mother can no longer mow her 12ft by 40ft lawn and I would like to turn it into a meadow with wild flowers. The lawn has lots of weeds and is on poor, soil. I cannot redig the lawn, so could I feed it and then rake wildflower seeds into the grass? How much seed should I buy and from where? — Mrs N. Taylor, Rochdale, Lancashire.

A I would dearly love to dissuade you from this, for several reasons. First, wildflower meadows close to a small house look unkempt rather than natural. Second, until you make hay of the long grass in July or August you cannot walk in the area without flattening it. And then, after cutting, it looks brown for weeks. Third, cutting the hay in summer requires a scythe or a powerful mower. And all that hay has to be raked up and put somewhere. Fourth, you will have all this work regardless of the quality of the wildflower content of the sward, and building up a good wildflower meadow is slow and not at all easy. A wildflower meadow is not an option I would inflict on anyone who wants less work or fast results. Yes, I know they look wonderful in big, wild gardens. I suggest you let the grass grow this year until August, without worrying about improving the species content, and see if you can stand it practically. If not, then nothing is lost. If you like it, then start introducing plantlets of wildflowers into the turf next spring. This works better than seed in an established lawn. Above all, do not feed it: wildflowers do better on poor soils where coarse grasses cannot swamp them.

Q We live on top of a hill and our garden is very exposed. There is an area of grass and trees in which I would like to grow a carpet of crocus. Is there a crocus which is wind resistant? — Mrs M.E. Whitmore, Bristol.

A Crocuses give of their best only in good weather, when the sun warms them and opens the flowers. But no individual flowers last for more than a few days and if they are battered by wind or rain the show can be dismal. In windy places it is better to grow not the large Dutch hybrid crocuses but the earlier, shorter species such as *Crocus tommasinianus*, *aureus*, *chrysanthus* and their hybrids. *Tommasinianus* is pale mauve and seeds well, even in grass. It is followed by yellow *aureus* and the *chrysanthus* hybrids, which can be a whole mixture of creams and bronzes and yellow. Look out for 'Snow Bunting', 'Cream Beauty', 'Blue Pearl' and 'Zwanenburg Bronze'. To give the crocus flowers some support, leave the grass a couple of inches long over winter, so that they are not broken by wind before they have a chance to open. Is this area of grass and trees rabbit free? Rabbits love crocus leaves.

Showy: *C. chrysanthus*

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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Weaving a natural line in willow

On the Somerset Levels an ancient craft is attracting new admirers

SWNS

James Hector, seated on a pile of hurdles, with a bunch of willow ready for weaving

Should a modern-day Orsino wish to pine outside his Olivia's gate he would do well to ask James Hector to make him a willow cabin. Such a cabin, or summerhouse, will cost £1,990 and be built of Somerset withy, on site, to the customer's requirements. If that seems too extravagant, the mournful lover could shelter in the lee of a hand-woven fence, or hurdle, made from willow coppiced off the maker's woodland.

For four generations, English Hurdle, which is run by Mr Hector's father, has been making and selling willow products, including baskets, garden gates, plant climbers and garden seating.

Hurdles can be ordered in a variety of sizes: a typical panel is 6ft by 6ft and costs £35. Willow for the fencing is grown without fertiliser and untreated by chemicals, making it particularly suitable for training climbing plants.

"The willow can be woven as soon as it's cut," Mr Hector says. "If it has been stored after cutting, it needs to be soaked with water for five days to make it flexible again, but nothing else needs doing." After a few months the willow will dry out completely and the bark will fall away.

Untreated hurdles will last six to ten years, he says, and their life can be prolonged with creosote or Cuprinol if they are to be used solely as fences or windbreaks.

Mr Hector says that it is the natural quality of the willow that makes his work so popular — 100 acres having proved inadequate to demand, English Hurdle is looking to increase its holdings on the Somerset Levels. Until recently the willow was all cut by hand; every year from November to March; but with so much acreage the Hectors now use cutting machinery. But that is the only concession to modern methods.

"People really like the look of a woven fence," he says. "You get something long-lasting and natural, and it isn't as costly as, say, a dry-stone wall." They are particularly good for protecting a young hedge as it settles in, he adds.

Mr Hector has not always been in the family trade. He started as a physicist and then worked for a while monitoring earthquakes. "I moved back to Somerset from London when I married," he says. "It's nice being involved with a product that people really appreciate."

The firm claims to be the largest of its kind in Britain and has supplied the National Trust and English Heritage, done some film work (for *Willow*, of course) and made panels for a maze at Legoland at Windsor, Berkshire.

Wickerwork is an ancient art and examples have been unearthed at nearby Glastonbury, dated 3500 BC. But English Hurdle, with a workforce of 20, is working to reconcile ancient and modern. Perhaps, 5,000 years on, one of its hurdles will be found at the bottom of your garden.

ERICA WAGNER

● *English Hurdle, Curload, Stoke St Gregory, Taunton, Somerset TA3 6JD (01828 698418, fax 01823 698859).*

WEEKEND TIPS

- ● *Buy your seed potatoes, particularly early varieties, and spread them out in a box to sprout on a light but cool window sill or in a shed.*
- ● *Herbaceous perennials can be lifted and divided this month: deal first with early shooting species such as euphorbia.*
- ● *Hybrid tea, floribunda and climbing roses can be given their final pruning, always cutting to an outward-pointing bud.*
- ● *Lightly scarify lawns in dry, breezy weather.*

S.A.

هكذا من الأصل

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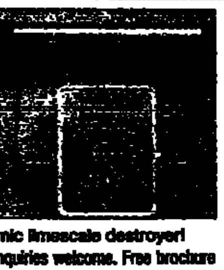

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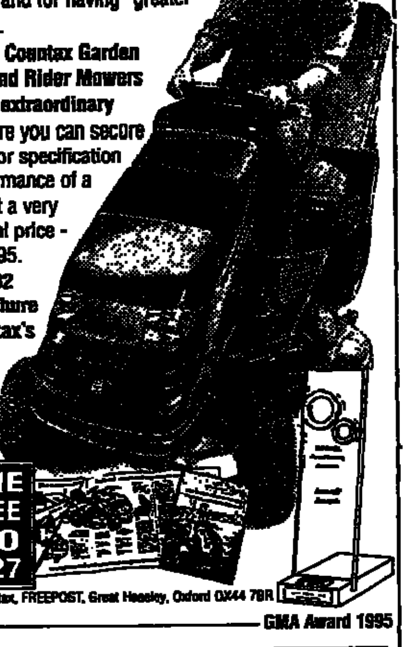

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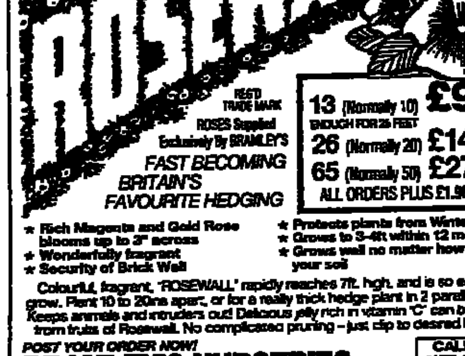

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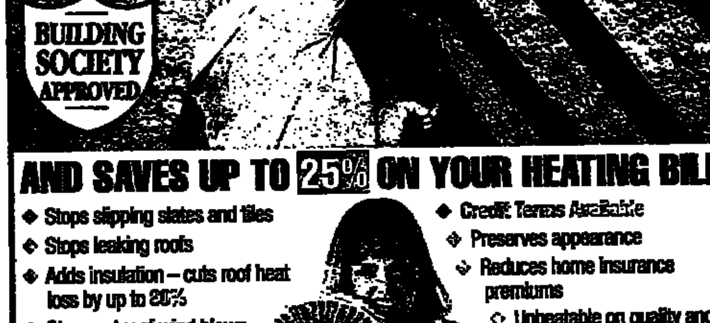

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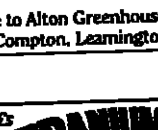

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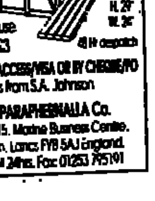

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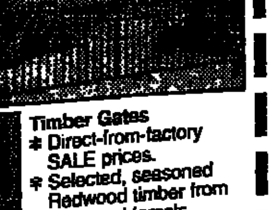

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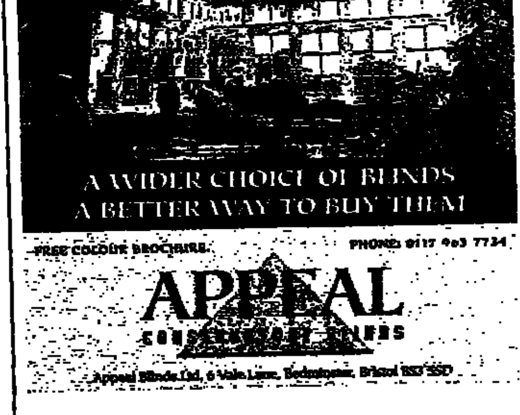

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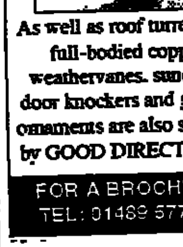

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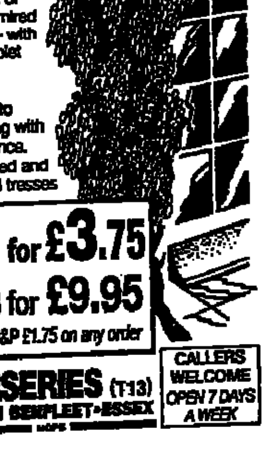

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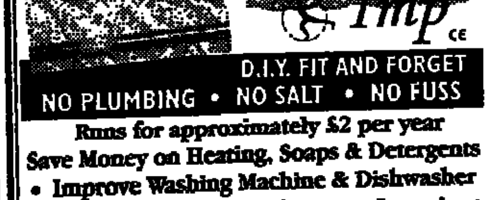

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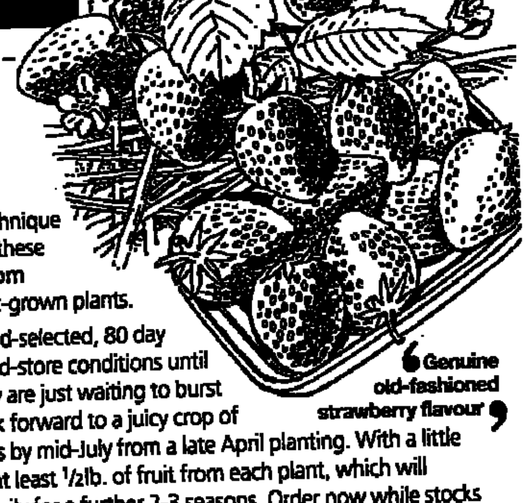

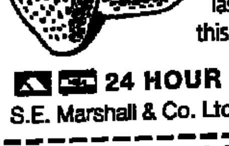

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Freehold £395,000

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STANHOPE PLACE, W2

A very well presented, light flat on the third and fourth floors of a stucco-fronted period building. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 2 reception rooms. kitchen.

Lease to 2143 + share of freehold £280,000

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SUTHERLAND STREET, SW1

With an impressive first floor drawing room, a good family house currently arranged to provide a separate basement flat. 3/4 beds, 2 baths, dressing room/bed 4, 2 receps, kitchen, garden. 2 room basement flat with kitchen & bath.

Freehold £465,000

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ST JOHN'S WOOD, NW8

In a quiet turning by Regents Park, an unusual semi-detached house circa 1928 requiring updating, with an integral garage, off-street parking and a charming garden. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 receps, kitchen, cloakroom, utility room, large cellar.

Freehold £505,000

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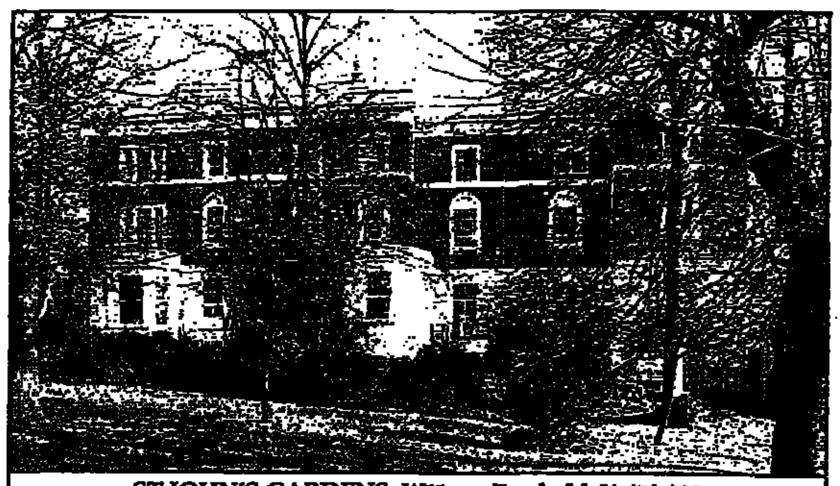

ST JOHN'S GARDENS, W11 Freehold £1,650,000

In a tree-lined crescent high on Notting Hill, a light and gracious house with a west facing garden leading onto communal gardens. 6/7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, roof terrace, self-contained flat.

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BERKSHIRE – Burghclere Price Guide: £700,000

In a parkland setting, a fine listed 17th century house with a separate cottage. 5 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, 4 receps. 2 bed cottage, 2 garages, outbuildings, formal gardens, walled kitchen garden, tennis court, swimming pool, pond, paddocks and woodland. About 8.9 ha (22 acres).

NEWBURY: 01635 523225

HAMPSHIRE Dummer

Beautifully proportioned and presented, an early 19th century listed cottage by the village duck pond. 4 beds, 3 baths, 3 receps, kitchen, cloakroom, cellar, boot room, utility room, parking, gardens. About 0.13 ha (0.33 acre).

Price Guide: £310,000

WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

LEICESTERSHIRE Nr Melton Mowbray

A listed village manor house with stabling and paddocks, the home of Desert Orchid. 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 receps, dining hall, kitchen, b'fast room, indoor swimming pool, tennis court, barn, garaging, gardens and paddocks. About 5.4 ha (13.4 acres).

Price Guide: £390,000

HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106

HAMPSHIRE Hordle Nr. Lymington

In a village setting, a charming cottage, modernised and extended. 2/3 beds, shower room, bath, 2/3 receps, kit, outside utility, dble garage, gdn. About 1.3 ha (0.33 acre). (Potential to extend subject to renewing previous consent).

Price Guide: £195,000

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

OXFORDSHIRE Stratton Audley

In a rural setting about 5 miles from Bicester, a delightful residential farmhouse. 4 beds, dressing room, 2 baths, shower room, 3 receps, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom. 3 car garage, stable block, gardens and grounds. Just over 2.5 ha (6.25 acres).

Price Guide: £335,000

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3 bed mews house in quiet location. Rec, kit, 2 dbl beds, 1 sgl bed/study, bath/wc, roof terrace, own garage. Vacant possession Freehold £240,000 incl furnishings

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Also a great deal of magic.
We fell in love in and with it.
You could too. £360,000.
And it's only 12 minutes from the West End.
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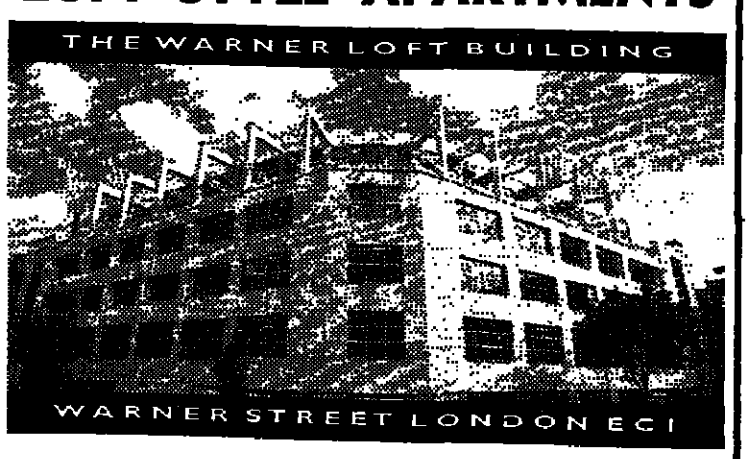

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Superb 3/4 bed town house, spacious lounge/dining rm, f.f. bosch kit, luxury marble tiled bathrm, utility room, integral garage & garden. Set on estate with beautiful gdns & pond, conv to all amenities.
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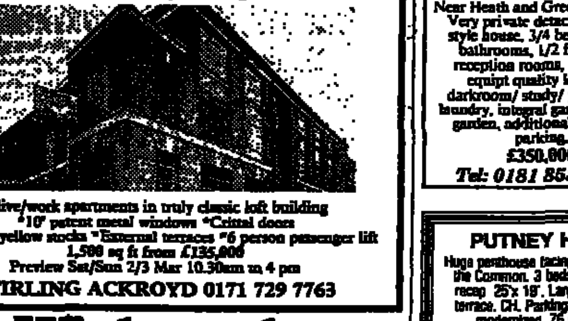

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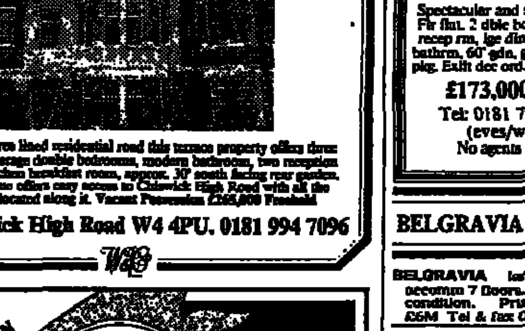

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SW1 - Delightful 1 bedroom flat with large balcony in Pimlico on 1st flr. Elegantly refurbished retaining original features. £128,000. Tel: 0171 821 9637

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LEASE 120 years
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BLOOMSBURY, WC1. 3 bed, 2 bath flat. 1st, 2nd & 3rd floors. Terrace. F/H £325,000. Barnard Marcus 0171 636 2736.

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Beamed back into history

The romantic appeal and beauty of a traditional black and white house never fades

Last year, workmen demolishing the Old Dairy and Farmhouse on the edge of Wolverhampton discovered something they had not expected. One wing, completely hidden under plaster, proved to be part of a half-timbered 14th-century manor house. The workmen had the sense to alert the council, and a preservation order was immediately placed on it. Now the council is working on plans to restore the building.

It will find plenty of good advice. The restoration of these medieval and Tudor houses has become very popular in recent years, though not many have been so completely lost to view as the Wolverhampton house. "Half-timbered" is the name popularly used to describe them, though no one knows what it means, and nowadays the experts prefer the name "timber-framed buildings".

They were built in England and Wales from the 13th right up to the late 18th century, and were constructed in a quite different way from a brick or stone building. These, whether cottages or cathedrals, have one brick or stone put on top of another, and gravity keeps them in place. Timber-framed houses, on the other hand, are based on lengths of wood — usually oak — all firmly jointed together. "A giant could pick up a timber-framed house, turn it upside down and put it back on the ground still in one piece," as Richard Harris puts it in his book, *Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings*.

The Priory in Lavenham, Suffolk, combines authentic original beauty with modern comforts (£600,000, Savills)

Traditionally, the infill between the timbers was "wattle-and-daub". Hazel shoots, or wattles, were woven into a tight panel between narrow oak uprights, and these panels were daubed on both sides with a mixture of clay, dung and straw. Finally they were limewashed or painted, usually white. Later it became a custom to paint the beams black, giving the buildings their other popular name — "black-and-white houses".

They were sturdy, these constructions, and in houses surviving today the oak beams are often as solid as they were 400 years ago. One splendidly restored house, now on the market, is the Priory, in Lavenham, Suffolk — one of the most "black-and-white" villages in England.

Owned by Mr and Mrs Alan Casey, it once belonged to the Benedictine monks of Colne Priory and was probably used by an official for collecting tithes. When the Caseys bought it in 1979 it had been derelict for 20 years and most was hidden under plaster. They found that it comprised seven distinct timber frames sitting side by side.

It took the Caseys four years' work before the house was ready to live in, and they have gone on improving it. Some of the oak on the ground floor had been nibbled by woodworm, but most of it was sound, and it still provides the basic framework of the house. The Caseys even kept the wattle-and-daub where it was firm and dry, though where it had to be replaced they used rock wool as insulation.

They still have, just as it was, the fine staircase introduced in Jacobean times and, wherever they can, they display the old beams inside as well as out. But they have installed double-glazing and underfloor heating, combining authentic original beauty with authentic modern comfort. The Priory is on sale through Savills in excess of £600,000.

Another place with many black-and-white houses is Rye in East Sussex. On sale there is an Elizabethan house lived in by the astrologer Samuel Jeakes in the 17th century, and recently by the novelist Rumer Godden. Hartshorn House is offered through Knight Frank with a guide price of £350,000.

Herefordshire is an almost completely "black and white" county and, on the edge of Leintwardine in the Teme Valley, a charming cottage, both timber-framed and thatched, is on the market at £190,000. It is called Kinton Thatch and can be viewed through Knight Frank in Hereford.

In his book, Harris gives a long list of fine halls, houses and barns where splendid craftsmanship, by the original builders and restorers, can be seen. One that will be on show this summer with a newly restored medieval garden is Stoneacre, at Otham in Kent. This was given to the National Trust in 1928 by Mr and Mrs Aymer Vallance.

It still has its Great Hall, which is spanned by a gigantic tie-beam and looks very much as it must have done when it was built in 1480. The house is entered by its original oak front door, which has an Elizabethan lock and a 16th-century Flemish knocker. The oak screen in the passage was discovered by Mr Vallance under a layer of lath and plaster.

The grounds, which are divided by stone walls into a spring and an autumn garden, and also have a summer herbaceous garden, were restored by the present tenant, Rosemary Alexander, principal of the English Gardening School at the Chelsea Physic Garden.

The more you look at timber-framed buildings, the better you understand how they evolved. To restore one yourself and live in it is to get about as close to history as anyone can.

DERWENT MAY

- *The Priory: Savills, Ipswich (01473 226191); Hartshorn House: Knight Frank, Tunbridge Wells (01892 515035); Kinton Thatch: Knight Frank, Hereford (01432 273087).*
- *Stoneacre, Otham, Kent: house and garden open every Wednesday and Saturday, April 3 to October 26, 2-6pm (last admission 5pm); adults £2.20, children £1.10.*
- Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings *(Shire Publications, £3.95).*

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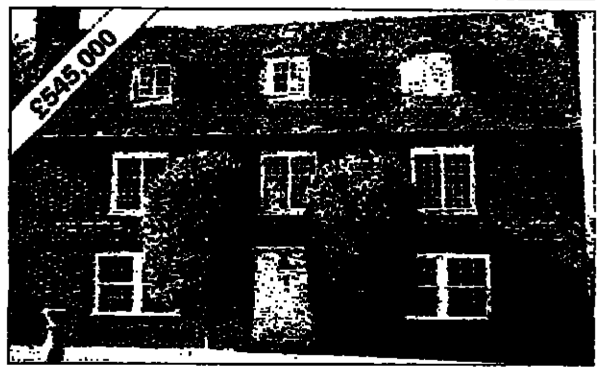
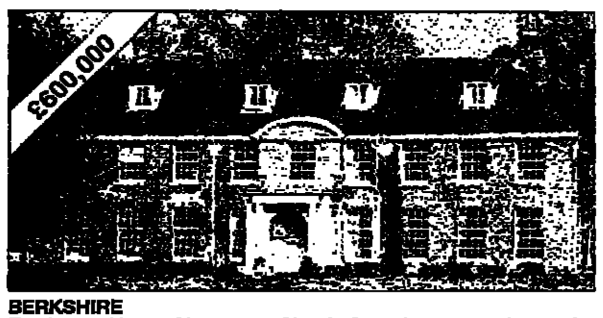


SURREY
Burstow Court, Church Road, Burstow, Horley. Grade II listed, 18th century house in 4.5 acres of gardens with a moat, a lake and a paddock. Ten bedrooms, three bathrooms, shower-room, five reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, laundry cloakroom and sauna. Garage block and stable. About £545,000 (GA Town & Country, 01892 542711)



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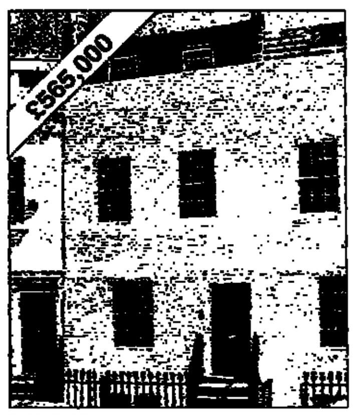
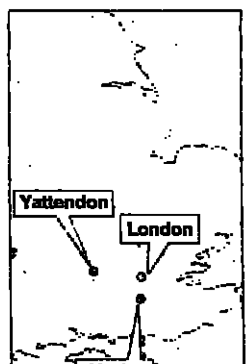
Everington House, Yattendon. Classic Georgian country house, in 7.5 acres of gardens and paddocks bisected by the river Pang. Seven bedrooms, five bathrooms, three reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, cellar. Heated swimming pool. About £600,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01635 521707)





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RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Real odd Beatles sounds; tribute to the singer's singer; two times Brahms

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ THE BEATLES
Real Love★
Apple/Parlophone 8 82646
THE rapid chart decline of *Free as a Bird* suggests that the public's theoretical enthusiasm for a Beatles "reunion" quickly waned when confronted by the reality.

The follow-up, *Real Love*, is likely to receive short shrift. Recorded under similarly inauspicious conditions — with Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr adding their parts to a cassette demo-recording of John Lennon 17 years ago — it is an inconsequential number.

Retrospective voices

Lennon's voice is understandably blurred. The other three do their best to plug the gaps, and Jeff Lynne's production lends a superficial gloss to an otherwise pedestrian arrangement. But bereft of energy, it hardly sounds like the result of a minor technological miracle: just a bit odd and unbelievably ancient.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ STING
Mercury Falling
A&M 540 486★
THE reconfiguration of British pop that has taken place in the past two years will have done little to dent Sting's enduring popularity. But it has stripped whatever remained of his appeal, leaving him marooned once and for all in the flatlands.

Unfortunately, this turn of events coincides with an album which sees something of a furrow returning to the blond troubadour's brow. *Mercury Falling* offers nothing so daunting as the introspection of 1991's *The Soul Cages*, but neither is it brightened by the jaunty mood of *Ten Summoner's Tales* (unless you count *I'm So Happy I Can't Stop Crying*, a number surely lifted straight from the Clive James guide to writing fake country songs).

Lyrics such as "I walk through the day/My coat around my ears/I look for my companion/I have to dry my tears" are printed on the accompanying booklet amid pictures of Sting wandering among the woodlands.

The musicianship is superlative, the performances buffed to perfection and the tunes get under the skin. But it is hard to work up enthusiasm for an album with so little fire in its belly.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ CHARLIE HADEN — QUARTET WEST
Now is the Hour
Verve 529827★★★
IF I were forced to name the most accomplished working group of the past ten years, Quartet West would come to mind. The immaculate ensemble playing and programmatic approach gives every album a distinctive aura.

Haden makes no use of archive material — a device that was in danger of being over-used before. But saxophonist Ernie Watts, drummer Larance Marable and pianist Alan Broadbent are all back at their usual posts. Broadbent has also written atmospheric string arrangements which astutely avoid interrupting the flow of solos. Most audacious of all, perhaps, is the way in which his truncated setting of Lennie Tristano's *Requiem*, with a violin reproducing the pianist's right-hand phrases, fades into a spirited string-free reading of Charlie Parker's *Back Home Blues*.

☐ VARIOUS ARTISTS
Blue Note Plays Sinatra
Blue Note CDP7-35282★★★
FAR from being a cheap stunt, this invigorating compilation underscores the jazz fraternity's long-standing admiration for the singer's singer.

Dexter Gordon's *Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out to Dry* and Ike Quebec's *Nancy (with the Laughing Face)* may be safe choices, but Joe Lovano's *Angel Eyes* and Sonny Rollins's *I've Got You Under My Skin* head the list of surprises.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ BRAHMS/ SCHUMANN
Violin Concertos
Bell/Cleveland Orchestra/Dohnanyi
Decca 444 811-2★★★

☐ BRAHMS/MOZART
Violin Concertos
Zimmermann/Berlin Philharmonic/Sawallisch
EMI CDC 5 55426 2★★★
THE most striking difference between these two new versions of Brahms's Violin Concerto — one with Joshua Bell and the Cleveland Orchestra; the other with Frank Peter Zimmermann and the Berlin Philharmonic — is in the quality of orchestral sound. The Cleveland sound is lean, clean and vital; the Berliners is luxurious and velvety. Sawallisch's handling of the score is weightier too, and his soloist, Zimmermann, complements that approach with his attacking style: Bell does not lack power, but he often exploits a vein of introspective fantasy.

If the honours are pretty evenly divided between these two fine young interpreters, the matter may be decided for you by the coupling. Zimmermann offers an expressive account of Mozart's G Major Violin Concerto. Bell makes an eloquent case for the grossly neglected D Minor Concerto of Schumann.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ SIBELIUS
Songs Vol. 3
Von Otter/Forsberg
BIS-CD-757★★★
ANNE Sofie von Otter and her pianist Bengt Forsberg relate the haunting tale of *The Wood Nymph*, and also offer four more world premiere recordings: *The Jewish Girl's Song*: an early solo version of the choral *Likhet*; *En visa* and the duet *Tanken*.

These treasures are complemented by 13 songs to the poetry of Runeberg, and six of Sibelius's German language settings, all in supple, sympathetic performances.

☐ WINGS IN THE NIGHT: Swedish Songs
Von Otter/Forsberg
DG 449 189-2★★★
Meanwhile, von Otter's latest recording of Swedish songs from the turn of the century is nothing short of a revelation.

Here is the musical equivalent of the Golden Age of Nordic painting: those dreams of a summer night expressed in the language of national Romanticism and Symbolism. Here, from Peterson-Berger, are the folk-songs and the *Marit Songs* which could have been written for von Otter's light, lyric mezzo-soprano. Some of the most powerful vocal writing is by Ture Rangstrom. Here is his *Pan* and *Wings in the Night* which gives this disc its name.

NEW ON VIDEO: Bloomsbury buddies; tales of the supernatural; a Huppert hauteur

■ CARRINGTON
PolyGram, 18, 1995
DORA CARRINGTON'S name may be on the film, and Emma Thompson may play her, but the young painter who formed an unlikely alliance with Lytton Strachey, Bloomsbury's gay aesthete, takes a back seat in Christopher Hampton's drama. Strachey drives this film. Aside from Jonathan Pryce's performance, *Carrington* is cold, fragmentary and hollow, though its surfaces are pleasantly decorative. Available to rent.

■ DEAD OF NIGHT
Lumiere, PG, 1945
ANXIOUS to spread Ealing's wings after the war, producer Michael Balcon instigated this renowned compendium of supernatural stories. The real pearl is Robert Hamer's tale about stifled passions and the hidden life of a haunted mirror. The film's only drawback is the silly comic relief with Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne on the golf course.

■ FUN
Tartan, 18, 1994
"FUN is number one!" one teenager remarks after a prank leaves an old woman dead. Luckily the film skirts direct exploitation and explores the aimless lives of two bad girls. Director Rafal Zielinski struggles to make his film look rough and uncompromising, but the performances by Renée Humphrey and Alicia Witt are genuinely unnerving.

■ HAUNTED
Entertainment, 15, 1995
In this creaky adaptation of James Herbert's novel, *The Turn of the Screw* meets *Brideshead Revisited*. There is also Aidan Quinn, and the sudden appearance of his American drawl is the film's first shock. Veteran director Lewis Gilbert works hard at generating others, but a terrible script and a crawling pace make all effort redundant. Available to rent.

Jolly boating: decorative surfaces in *Carrington*, with Emma Thompson and Steven Waddington

■ MANDY
Lumiere, PG, 1952
DIRECTOR Alexander Mackendrick serves a powerful drama about a deaf-and-dumb girl, played with astonishing assurance by seven-year-old Mandy Miller. Mackendrick avoids all hysteria, carefully studying the wayward progress of love and understanding in a household where the parents have communication problems of their own.

■ LA SEPARATION
Fox Guild, PG, 1995
THE stars almost guarantee quality: they are Isabelle Huppert sporting selfish hauteur, and Daniel Auteuil sporting stubble. The subject has a comfortable familiarity: a marriage break-up. The visuals come without frills, which suits home viewing if not the cinema, though it is still hard to shrug off that "so what?" feeling as the self-centred characters spin round and round. A third feature from director Christian Vincent: watchable, but sterile.

GEOFF BROWN

OPERA

John Higgins

■ GALINA GORCHAKOVA
Arias
Kirov Orchestra/Gergiev
Philips 446 405-2★★★
GORCHAKOVA'S recital offers a well-chosen double glance into the past and the future. In the middle is Tchaikovsky, the composer on whom she established her now very considerable reputation in the West. The outsides are provided by Verdi, sung by Gorchakova in her native Russia but a little-known quantity for the rest of us.

Few ladies bare their souls more openly than Tatyana writing her night-time letter to Eugene Onegin. This is Tchaikovsky with full emotional thrust, urged on by Valery Gergiev and the Kirov Orchestra in tingling mood. Lisa in *The Queen of Spades* has even more reason to be haunted by the image of the stranger who stared at her in the Winter Garden. Real Gorchakova territory.

The Verdi is less clear-cut. Gorchakova's soprano has too much of a mezzo-ish tinge to make her an ideal Desdemona in the *Willow Song* and *Ave Maria* from *Otello*, and *O patria mia* from *Aida* ends with uncharacteristic abruptness. But the two Leonoras, *Forza* and *Trovatore*, find her back on form.

☐ LOTTE LEHMANN IN OPERA
Nimbus 7873★★
THIS collection shows the great soprano at the start of her lengthy international career. Here is Lehmann in lighter roles little associated with her, including Susanna in *Figaro* and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*; in both she is admirably partnered by Heinrich Schlusnus, a baritone good enough to be the subject of a Nimbus disc.

But Agathe (*Freischutz*) is there, the part which led her from Hamburg to become one of the great divas of Vienna. It is easy to see why: a pure, limpid tone which needs little or no support from the primitive orchestra.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

TODAY BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO OFFERS EVERY TIMES READER THE CHANCE TO TAKE OUT A FREE FILM

Curl up with an icon of the cinema

The lure of video remains impossible to resist, especially as cinema celebrates its centenary, says **Geoff Brown**, film critic of *The Times*

Hard to imagine this now, but once upon a time there was a world without video. If you craved a viewing of your favourite film, whether *Psycho* or *The Seventh Seal*, you had to scour the TV schedules or make a trek to a repertory cinema. If the film was on the box at midnight, you had to stay up, bleary-eyed. You could not fast forward through the adverts. You could not freeze a frame, or repeat a treasured moment. The film was not yours: it was theirs — the television companies, the distributors — and you were always subject to their whims.

Now you can own or borrow a film as easily as you can a book. There is a trade-off, of course. For the convenience of watching a film at your leisure, surrounded by the comforts of home, you miss the cinema's communal experience. It takes effort to enjoy even a miracle of comedy by Buster Keaton sitting alone surrounded by the dog basket, the gas bill, and other domestic clutter. Far better to sit in the dark and be swept up in a tidal wave of laughter. You also sacrifice the cinema image's size and texture, particularly with silent films, where the material available for the video transfer may not be of high quality.

Yet the lure of video remains impossible to resist, especially as cinema celebrates its centenary. Though gaps persist in the repertoire — where, for instance, are the Renée Clair classics of the 1930s — the range of titles for sale or rental gets wider month by month. What cinema in Britain would be able to offer punters the animation output of the American comic-strip pioneer Winsor McCay, creator of *Little Nemo in Slumberland*? Yet a video containing McCay's complete works landed on my doormat this week.

Six months after their release, the big Hollywood guns arrive in the rental shops; they take 12 months to reach satellite television. You can revisit *The Avengers* and *Dr Who*; check out *Storm Over Asia*, *The End of St. Petersburg*, and those other Russian classics you have read about but never seen. You can curl up with an icon, whether Humphrey Bogart, James Dean, or Marilyn Monroe; or linger over masterpieces like Renoir's *La Règle du Jeu*, Marcel Carné's *Les Enfants du Paradis*, or Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai*. If the mood strikes, you can also pull out the mat, put on the leotards, and buckle down to *Lydia Wong's Complete Holistic Workout*.

The video phenomenon is not going to go away. This week's big cinema release, *Strange Days*, suggests that by 2000 the fashionable entertainment for degenerate Los Angelenos will be illicit virtual reality discs, which "tape" experiences straight from the brain. Whether this comes about or not — and no doubt it will — it takes no great prophet to foretell that cinema's future lies largely with home entertainment.

By the time cinema celebrates its 200th birthday, we may be too scared to venture out. But we will still see *Casablanca* and *The Wizard of Oz*: Video, or whatever successor technology invents, will always keep cinema's flame burning.

The Wizard of Oz: retrace the Yellow Brick Road

Here's looking at you: *Casablanca* starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman

Enjoy a free video

Sharp performance: Johnny Depp as Edward Scissorhands

Starting today *The Times*, in association with Blockbuster Video, gives you the chance to see your favourite film — FREE. You can choose from up to thousands of titles including classics such as — *Brief Encounter*, *Casablanca*, *Gone with the Wind*, the Marx Brothers and Laurel and Hardy. Or see again box office hits such as *ET*, *The Godfather*, *Jaws* or *Sleepless in Seattle*.

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THE TIMES

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ACADEMIC, late thirties, interested in (inter alia) the theatre, classical music and architecture and much given to travel, would like to meet those of similar habits. Plse rply to Box 4014

LADIES

ABSOLUTELY fabulous, auburn hair, green eyes, 5'5", caring, kind, intelligent with lots of style. Enjoys the fine things in life, good food, wine, travel, theatre, sport, GSOH. If you are 45/55 years with similar interests & would like a meaningful relationship, please reply with photo to Box No 4091. ALA. London/SE.

ACTIVE bountiful cautious discerning lady WLTM similar gentleman 50's-60's to share many interests. Home Counties, London, Cotswolds. For more information reply Box 3971

ADVENTUROUS, bright London woman, independent, no ties, widely travelled, happy in high heels or wellies, seeks articulate, considerate N/S man with savoir faire, 35-55. Photo helpful. Please Reply to Box 3961

ADVENTUROUS travelling widow, 63, youthful, art lover, WLTM similar professional man with GSOH & warmth. SW London. Please Reply with photo to Box No 3869

AFFABLE, outgoing lady, considered very attractive, seeks compatible man 40-52. TLC - A must! Good sense of fun + a fair degree of solvency appreciated. Please send photo to Box 4170

ALTERNATIVE trophy babe seeks easygoing highly intelligent man 45+ Lndn. Box 3988

ANTIQUE dealer, lover of music, art, & all things beautiful needs man 55-65 with intelligence & personality to light up her life & change existance into adventure. London/SE. Please reply with photo to Box No. 4193

A SPIRITED green eyed damsel seeks tall, dashing, knight who is warm, witty, open, intelligent & 30ish. London/H Counties. Photo please Box No 4083

ASTROLOGER attractive, 33 university educated, N/S, feminine, sensitive, kind and cultured with GSOH seeks attractive, intelligent, professional London based male, 30-38 for relationship of commitment, humour & depth. Photo please to Box No 4067

ATTRACTIVE slim Widow - late 50's - graduate - irreverent SOH - would like to share her interest in travel, theatre, walking, wining/dining, gd convesation with well-educated like-minded gentleman c 60-70. Box 3982

ATTRACTIVE female researcher, 36, busy, fit and independent seeks successful professional/academic male, 35+. London. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 3909

A VERY pretty green eyed American, 42 with her own small company & a pretty 8 yr daughter looking for a well rounded solvent man who enjoys romantic weekends in the country, as well as a rich family home life in London. If you are down to earth strong with a kind heart & a sense of fun please write. Please Reply with photo to Box No 4184

CARING, solvent, tactile, N/S gentleman wanted for this 5'2", slim, Warwicks lady, photo if possible & reply. Box No 3974

CAT LOVING lady. Hantsbased WLTM warm, kind gentleman 60's to share outings, holidays & life in general. Photo apprec'd. Reply to Box No 4171

CHAPS 65+. I'm trim, bubbly, good cook/hostess, adaptable. Living Kent. WLTM kind fit solvent chap with integrity. N/S. Keen on the Arts. Full details ensures reply. Box No 4093

CLASSY professional ladies, where besides The Executive Club will you meet them?

COSMOPOLITAN warm-hearted, sincere male 45-60, interested in current affairs & travel wanted by attractive German black pharmacist, 35, GSOH, English speaking. Photo please. Reply to Box No 3916

EFFERVESCENT European 35 years old petite, wicked and attractive would like to meet gentleman 35-55, intelligent, assertive, educated, & black S.O.H. Photo app. Box No 4016

EFFERVESCENT, independent, attractive woman, 33, loves to travel; looking for unattached, easy-going and successful man. Photo please. Box No 4182

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EXCEPTIONALLY attractive, educated, warm hearted, slim blonde decorator (38). Loves the Arts, antiques, travelling, horses, romance & laughter. Seeks kind, charismatic, handsome, successful cultured gentleman (no heavy drinkers!) for love, marriage & children. Chelsea based but loves the country. Photo please to Box No 4124

FILLY running at Cheltenham. NH Festival seeks thoroughbred escort for paddock. Photo & colours. Reply to Box No 4055

FIT, comely woman, self employed postgraduate, early 40s, 5'7", few ties. Warm, kind, interesting. Seeking taller n/s man, similar attributes, to share varied pursuits. London based. Hugs, holidays, life-long wit and subtlety. Please reply with photo to Box No 4167

FOXY lady, intelligent, slim 40's looking for professional fun-loving man for enjoyable evenings out. Likes bridge, conversation etc. London. No Herberts please. Reply to Box No 3872

FREE thinking attractive female graduate, 35, green eyes, tall 5'9, slim, intelligent, achiever, creative, warm, emotionally aware, varied interests, seeks tall male counterpart. London. Photo please to Box No 4146

FUN, happy lively Taurean (46) WLTM a man to share friendship and a loving relationship. Typically enjoys good food & wine but many interests including golf. Reply to Box No 4090

GREGARIOUS, attractive, intelligent, fit female, 48 WLTM successful academic/arts-loving/outdoor type. Wirral. Please Reply to Box No 3744

HEARTSTOPPING American, 37, Boston/(USA) based, attractive, petite, dark hair and eyes, intelligent, educated (Roedean), VGSOH/ wit, WLTM wonderful, attractive, bright, sophisticated, N/S, solvent man, British or American living in UK, with SOH to match mine, who has not forgotten how to flirt, for relationship/marriage in UK. Photo please to Box No 4116

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IMPORTANT piece of my jigsaw of life missing. Can you complete the picture? Are you 38-48, professional (not executive!), attractive, tall, slim, romantic, intelligent, Unattached? Then please write, include photo and maybe you'll fill the gap! Reply to Box No 3923

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IS eligible Surrey man a Myth? Attractive 36 yr old woman moved here 18 months ago and to date no sightings. Come on chaps. If you exist get in touch. Please Reply to Box No 3790

IS THERE a normal, goodlooking non pretenious child lover, 40's with GSOH, living in the South. Details & photo to Box No 4113

LADY 65 (looks 56) with interest in theatre, travel, horse racing would love to meet happy man with similar interests. Photo would be nice. Please Reply to Box No 4092

LIBENS, Volens, Potens but not easily pleased. Attractive, petite, stylish lady seeks attractive, successful, sophisticated 'man about town'. 38-48 photo appreciated. A.L.A. Box 4148

LIFE is an art to be shared. French lady, 50 - classy, affectionate, well travelled, enjoys walks, music, ballet, dining in and out. WLTM caring gentleman 58-68 with GSOH. Please Reply to Box No 4061

LIVELY mind & body, female grad. 61, Avon, WLTM warm scholarly man for possible lasting relationship. Box No 3770

LOVELY Aquarian lady, 63 (not looking for a free ride) with lots of love to give & passion for champagne seeks a true gentleman. Midlands/Cheshire area. Photo please to Box No 3969

LOYAL, affectionate, prof, solvent attractive mid fifties lady WLTM gentleman for happy permanent relationship. Glos. Please Reply to Box No 4073

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REFORMED workaholic professional lady mid 40s petite and attractive WLTM genuine intelligent unattached man (45-58) to share leisure interests (music theatre etc.) and generally help me feel alive again. London/SE. Letter and photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4179

SLIM attractive intelligent blonde - 40's seeks warm caring professional man 38-48 with SOH. SW London. Please Reply with photo to Box No 3920

SLIM feminine prof 46 of wit/imagination already enjoys good life. Join me if you are N/S man 50-60 in true prof (arts, law, medicine), successful & solvent. London/ Herts/ Essex. Photo plse to Box 3936

STRONG-WILLED I appear, yet sensitive within. Businesslike yet vulnerable, single spirited yet alone. WLTM a strong man (40-50) to share my life. Northwest. Photo plse to Box 4126

STYLISH, intelligent, very attractive blonde professional, young 43, seeks good-looking, fun-loving, n/s soulmate, 30s-40s. Photo essential (s.a.e. guarantees return). West Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 4147

SUCCESSFUL professional lady (33) WLTM similar tall, confident man with GSOH. SW London. Reply to Box No 3976

SWEDISH lady, widow, university graduate, semi retired, young 63 yrs. WLTM professional gentleman. Likes country, life, music, foreign travel. Please reply to Box No 3948

TENNIS loving attractive intelligent curvey 40 yr old single mother, good cook, loves, walking, travelling, eating out. Looking for a well established unattached 40+ gentleman for companionship & TLC. Londonbased. Please reply with photo to Box No 4168

VERY attractive, sophisticated woman, vivacious, successful with a great love of life seeks equally sophisticated & enthusiastic professional man with sense of humour. Interested in the arts, travel, & the good things in life. If you wonder why I'm advertising in the personal, write to Box No 4076 to find out. Photo appreciated.

VERY attractive, slim young looking blonde lady, mid fifties, independent with personality, charm & values. Seeks gentleman with similar qualities. Midlands based. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 4057

VERY attractive, independent lady from Southeast London, varied interests including golf wishes to meet similar gentleman. Reply to Box No 3968

VIVACIOUS, attractive, loving, energetic + cuddly lady from the S.E. WLTM her Mr. Right, aged about 60, many interests include bridge, gardening theatre and travel. Seeks to share her passion for life. Please Reply to Box No 3977

WEEKEND man wanted by workaholic with bubbly personality. Fun, slim, well dressed, excellent hostess, young 45, feet firmly on the deck, most of the time, seeks successful independent man to go into orbit with. London pref. Box No 3991

WELL-EDUCATED, well-travelled mid 40's professional woman WLTM similar male. Attractive, slim brunette. Interests include science, literature And the arts generally, countryside pursuits and travelling. Surrey-based. Recent photograph and letter appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4098

WIDOWED? or divorced? I WLTM a tall, educated man 50-60 who like myself, has loved & lost yet feels ready to resume life with someone compatible. I'm 48, 5'6', blue eyed & blonde, slim & pretty, affectionate, articulate, affluent & good company. Enjoy the outdoor life, gardening, walking, some sports but most of all would like to share cosy evenings at home, holidays, watching TV, doing DIY & ordinary everyday things with someone special. London. Photo plse to Box 4065

YOUNG in heart widow 60+. Fair, slim rather shy. Own home and income. Would like to meet gentleman of similar standing to enjoy travelling good food and wine, but most of all to have companionship and be able to laugh and relax together. Box No 4178

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

GENTLEMEN

ADVENTUROUS glider flying male 35, 6'10" dark hair, Berkshire based professional, WLTM lady (25-38)for friendship & perhaps more. Photo please to Box No 4066

ARE you really attractive, 50 or below, elegant, slim, N/S, GSOH, seeking new lifelong partner? If so, this 50's divorced gentleman living in Dorset with some of the above attributes + black Labrador + Aga would love to hear from you with latest picture to Box No 4096

GENTLEMEN

ALL I want is a miracle, all I want is you - a 'young' 40 something, slim, attractive, N/S 'lady' (possibly North American but not essential) with a zest for fun and romance. Me? A young 50 something British educated Asian with interests in sport, theatre, good food/wine, Italy. Forecast? Happy days together. London area only please. Recent photo appreciated. Box No 4169

A TALL good looking consultant physician/author in late 40's seeks very slim, tallish, highly attractive lady in her 30's or 40's for exciting relationship with possible long term commitment. I own a private medical clinic & luxury house overlooking Downs in Surrey near London. Love foreign travel, theatre, tennis, restaurants & cosy evenings at home. Extrovert & warm I am - stuffy doctor I am not. GSOH. Please write sending photograph which I will return unless you are dry gorgeous, in which case you will have to meet me to get it back. Reply to Box No 4195

BACHELOR lawyer, youthful 45, seeks glamorous, elegant, articulate, educated, witty, autonomous, independent-minded non-smoking lady as friend, companion and romantic partner. Photo appreciated, mine in return. Any area South Midlands to South Coast. Please write to Box No 4001

BERKSHIRE based male, 45, 6'3", dark, slim, intelligent honest. Enjoys sport, sunshine, travel, wine and much more. Divorced (no children). Looking for a slim, attractive, stylish, warm, non smoking lady with a personality (33-45). Photo would be appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3984

BIG tall yachtsman seeks first mate. Must be tall slim, attractive and adventurous. Bath/Dorset. Please Reply to Box No 4022

BUSY professional man, medium build, 54, widowed but had very happy and successful marriage. Committed Christian, warm, caring, kind, affectionate, open confident personality, n/s, varied mainly cultural interests particularly music. Based East Midlands. WLTM 40-50 something professional/ business lady of similar qualities. Attractive, feminine with own interests for friendship initially. Recent photo appreciated Good letter & your phone no please. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 3947

CHEERFUL, choosy, civilised, comfortable, careful, classy, considerate, clean cut, tall, dark, handsome businessman 36 no ties seeks a striking, sophisticated, stylish, svelte, sensual, sensible, single lady under 36 to enjoy laughter, travel, dining, life. Please reply with letter & essential photo. Cheshire/ Merseyside or close vicinity. Reply to Box No 3893

DEMANDING inquisitive woman sought by responding responsive male, 43. Box 4143

CHESHIRE, laidback director, 46, widower, seeks lively, intelligent, educated, n/s lady to share great lifestyle. Please Reply to Box No 4081

CONSIDERATE, kind, romantic London lawyer 41 likes cinema, theatre, good conversation, townie at heart but loves country walking, travel (esp. Italy/ France) seeks n/s caring, gentle, intelligent lady for hopefully lasting relationship. Phone No. appreciated. Box No 4007

COUNTRY gentleman 61, tall, slim, caring & genuine seeks attractive young lady to spoil & enjoy life with. Oxon. Please Reply with photo Box No 4084

DOWN TO EARTH professional male. Young 42 with no ties WLTM attractive, independent lady 35-42 to share interests. Like sport, walking, weekends away & foreign travel. Currently based in Northeast but distance not a problem. Please reply with photo to Box 3894

DYNAMIC successful, busy, professional well travelled 6 ft athletic gentleman early 40s WLTM petite, vivacious, sophisticated bubbly lady (SOH),who is interested in theatre, outdoors, overseas travel, the finer things in life. Warwickshire. Photo please to Box No 4089

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PROFESSIONAL gent, 45, varied interests seeks lady for friendship/possible romance. N/England/S/Scotland. Photo appreciated. Discretion assured. Please reply to Box No 4012

READING man, 31, warm hearted, down to earth, romantic, curry & classical music fan, GSOH. WLTM attractive, professional lady, N/S, 24-30, for intelligent conversation and humorous time. Photo please. Please reply to Box No 4187

RETIRED, widower, slim 5'9" solvent, healthy, n/s seeks companion. Holiday House Channelway. Box No 3619

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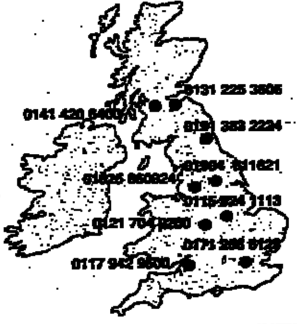

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Derwent May hears royal biographers Sarah Bradford, Philip Ziegler and Hugo Vickers express resentment of Palace secrecy

Seeing red where blood is blue

The Royal Society of Literature lived up to its name last week. Three royal biographers were talking about their work, and the evening meeting also attracted some members of the Royal Household — perhaps keeping an eye on things? Lady de Bellaigue, registrar of the royal archives, was among them, as was Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary. However, John Grigg, who was in the chair, announced that Sir Robert had already indicated he would have to leave before the end "so his early departure should not be taken as a statement".

The first speaker was the controversial Sarah Bradford, of *Elizabeth* fame. "I was amazed to find myself the subject of the most malignant, the most reckless and the most adroit ridicule," she declared, before revealing that this was a quote from Disraeli after the publication of his first novel, *Vivian Grey*. But it applied to her too, she said, after *Elizabeth* was published and serialised in *The Times*, and she had no doubt that it applied to Grigg after he made the first modest suggestion 40 years ago that the Queen should make herself better known to her people.

She defended her use of gossip — or "oral testimony" — in her biography, since half of what we knew about royalty in the past came from the gossip of people such as Pepys and Saint-Simon. Moreover, as she was an unofficial biographer, she had encountered not just a 30-year rule to protect the archives but the royal 100-year rule. She obviously still resented Palace secrecy. In 1936, she said, the British public was kept in ignorance until ten days before Edward VIII's abdication, and in 1990 we still believed in the fairy-tale marriage of the Princess of Wales. But secrecy always led to trouble, she concluded — and she thought that her biography showed that the Queen was more likeable than had ever been revealed.

Philip Ziegler, who wrote the official biography of Edward VIII, had to admit he had enjoyed the opportunities exclusively granted him in the royal archives. "I felt like a schoolboy let loose in the greatest sweetshop in the world," he said. Nor had he had much problem from the Palace about saying unfavourable things, but perhaps that was because his subject was Edward VIII.

The "big black hole" for royal biographers, he thought, was the complete silence on the meetings that monarchs had with their prime ministers. Even Harold Wilson, who would talk about everything else, would not talk about those. But Mr Wilson enjoyed them. He said the Queen was the only person with whom he could discuss state affairs who was not after his job. Lady de Bellaigue chipped in here — she said records of George V's meetings could be seen, but George VI had not actually allowed any notes to be taken.

Hugo Vickers, the third speaker, has been interested in the monarchy since he was a boy at Eton, when he spent all his spare time in Windsor Castle and built a model of it. He too had encountered secrecy when proposing to write a biography of Princess Marina: nobody had wanted to help him and he had given up. However, now that he was writing one about Prince Philip's mother, Princess Andrew of Greece, people were being more obliging.

All the time these musings on royal biography were going on, I felt a certain seething and rumbling among the audience, and finally the question that was troubling them broke forth. Did the speakers approve of the media treatment of the Royal Family, and did they not feel they contributed to it?

There was now a little more unease on the platform. All the speakers roundly condemned the hounding of the young royals, but they were all historians, they said, and had to be glad of any facts that came out. Nor did they know what could be done about it — "the public interest is so violent," said Bradford. Would it all lead to a rebirth of republicanism? asked one speaker. Grigg joined in reassuringly, recalling that 120 years ago many leading politicians were republicans, while none was now.

And what about those television interviews by the Prince and Princess of Wales? Vickers got the biggest laugh and applause of the evening when he said. "I would have preferred it if they had just told me."

In the view of the royal historians, it seems, it is best to keep the goats out of the royal pastures — but the sheep may safely graze.

White coat, dark soul

■ CARRIERS
By Patrick Lynch
Mandarin paperback original, £5.99

■ VERTICAL RUN
by Joseph R. Garber
Simon & Schuster, £9.99

■ THE ASSESSOR
By Iain Gately
Sinclair-Stevenson, £14.99

THE search for new villains since the end of the Cold War has ranged high and low. While renascent Nazis and President Saddam Hussein remain the hoary old favourites, a few new authors have been casting the net wider: from medical laboratories to City boardrooms.

Carriers is a — relatively — straightforward example of the "killer virus" genre. The moral dilemma which gives *Carriers* its twist, however, is how society can cope with a lethal, incurable disease that may be carried by an innocent who remains immune.

That very question is one that should be plaguing Dave Elliot when he jogs to the office one morning to find his boss waiting to kill him. And it's downhill from there. Even his wife seems to have it in for him, pointing him out to a mercenary team of assassins, many of whom are fellow Vietnam veterans.

Vertical Run occasionally breaks for cover, but mostly the book lives up to its title by making Elliot the subject of a manhunt up and down a 45-floor New York skyscraper. The action is relentless, the pace pounding and the plot spins satisfactorily into uncharted *X-Files* waters. Never trust the men in white coats.

In contrast, the "assessor" of the title in Iain Gately's debut novel is the sort of doctor who never comes near a stethoscope. A brilliant pioneer, Sir Charles Barrington is admired within the medical world. But his techniques are discreetly used by the pragmatists of both big business and the law. Sir Charles's skill is that he can provide a clinical analysis of whether a human being is "good" or "bad".

Unsurprisingly, this is a dubious skill in the grey areas of the modern business environment. It would have been interesting, for example, to know what Sir Charles might have made of Robert Maxwell. As it happens, Fraud Squad officers are interested in a City figure who had been the subject of a past "assessment". But when the assessor's home office is burgled and he is left lying in a coma, there are other suspects.

Gately writes always in the first person, switching viewpoints to suit the plot. It is a seductive technique but the stylistic switches are not always radical enough. Nonetheless, *The Assessor* is well crafted and elegant: a good read with more than a hint of sinister psychology to lace the tension. Sometimes the worst enemies are those within.

PETER MILLAR

A wood engraving by Agnes Miller Parker illustrates *Through the Woods* (Frances Lincoln, £16.99), H.E. Bates's evocation of a year in the life of an English woodland

Meet Dalziel and Pascoe

Marcel Berlins on a cop duo whose appearance on TV should bring their writer the attention he deserves

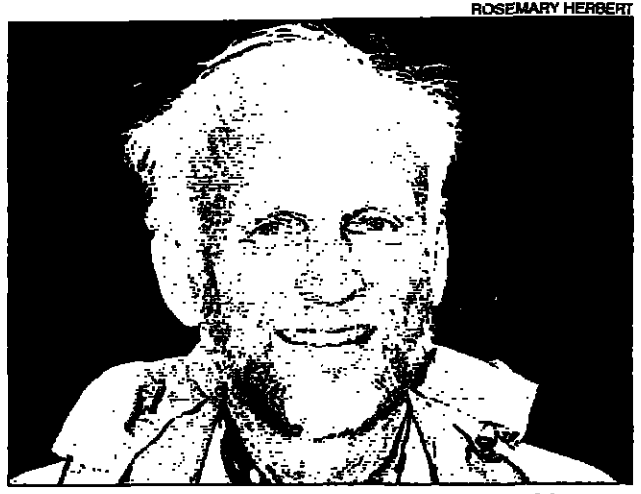
REGINALD Hill is the most unjustly neglected among the premier league of British crime writers. He attracts excellent reviews and has won his fair share of prizes, but he has somehow not broken through into the mass public appreciation that he deserves.

Part of the reason, I'm sure, has to do with the bad luck of not having captured a television series. Many lesser writers have had publicity disproportionate to their talents because they have managed to get their works on to the screen.

That has now changed: Reginald Hill's cop duo Dalziel and Pascoe will shortly be seen on television; and I expect Hill's readership to grow healthily. But if I were to recommend a novel introducing Dalziel and Pascoe to a newcomer to Hill's work, it would not be *The Wood Beyond*. It's not that it's bad — Hill is not capable of that — it's just that it isn't one of the best.

The Mid-Yorkshire police force's Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel is a copper of the old no-nonsense school. He's a fat, greedy, rude, unappreciative slob, disguising an alert, incisive mind. Detective Inspector Pascoe has a degee in sociology; he is intelligent, well read, compassionate and married to a right-on feminist. Their double-act — funny, abrasive, antagonistic, yet underneath mutually respectful — is one of the delights of English crime fiction.

ROSEMARY HERBERT



Reginald Hill: the creator of a delightful double-act

■ THE WOOD BEYOND
By Reginald Hill
HarperCollins, £14.99

In *The Wood Beyond* some human bones are discovered by animal rights protesters near a pharmaceutical research centre: Dalziel (pronounced Dee-El) investigates at first without Pascoe, who is at his grandmother's funeral learning something that immerses him in a search for the truth about events in the trenches of the First World War.

Dalziel's inquiries lead him into a strange relationship with the rights activist Amanda Marvell, who also happens to be a friend of Pascoe's wife, Ellie.

The characters are, as always, interesting and believable, but the interspersing of Pascoe's war research with the case of the buried bones doesn't quite gel. Fortunately, the television series will point readers to some of his better novels.

What, with the hip characters, snappy dialogue and journey through the LA scene, we could be watching a film

Of movies and shakers

■ SHOOTING ELVIS
(Confessions of an Accidental Terrorist)
By R.M. Eversz
Macmillan, £14.99

THE PUBLISHERS are not saying whether R.M. Eversz is a he or a she. Everybody else probably knows by now, but I do not, and so I will have to guess female, this book being a pure-bred descendant of the *Thelma and Louise* line of way-to-go, a woman-gets-her-own-back revenge fantasy.

And, like its recent cinematic ancestor, this is a wonderfully watchable tale.

I say watchable because, like many contemporary novels, *Shooting Elvis* is filmic in dialogue, plot, action, location and character. It is particularly strong on the first one — there are some cracking lines — good on the next three, and does enough on the last one to raise it well above the level of pulp fiction.

Shooting Elvis is set in Los Angeles, somewhere which is "about being somebody you weren't to begin with", and that is what Mary Baker, the small-town daughter of an abusive blue-collar father, becomes when she unwittingly sets off a bomb in the airport, goes on the run, and turns herself into Nina Zero, 1990s feminist heroine.

Her journey takes her through the LA scene, a scene by now more familiar to British readers than, say, Manchester, although most of us have never physically been in it. This scene is full of film stock characters (heart-of-gold private eyes, deceitful Hollywood wannabes, fraudulently hip artists, psychopathically ruthless killers), film stock objects (Harleys, pick-ups, guns, leather jackets) and film stock themes (everybody wants their 15 minutes of fame, the mainstream of society is as amoral as its underbelly, violence has a peculiarly pleasant and precious cathartic value, the American dream has not come true etc).

All of the above, when joined together with some craftsmanship, or even not very much craftsmanship, provide a winning formula. The reader can relax, retrieve the images, slot them into the internal video and then spend an agreeable three hours watching them. At the end, you can be gratified that you have read a book rather than nipped down to the local blockbuster, but the content, technique and experience were remarkably similar. Good fun.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	KEN HOM'S HOT WOK BOOK **Ken Hom** *(BBC)*	£16.99	0	1
2	CROSS CHANNEL **Julian Barnes** *(Cape)*	£10.99	1	7
3	MAXWELL: THE FINAL YEAR **Tom Bower** *(HarperCollins)*	14.99	9	3
4	ELIZABETH **Sarah Bradford** *(Heinemann)*	£20	0	3
5	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE **Daniel Goleman** *(Bloomsbury)*	£16.99	2	6
6	DELIA SMITH'S WINTER COLLECTION **Delia Smith** *(BBC)*	£15.99	3	19
7	BEACH MUSIC **Pat Conroy** *(Doubleday)*	£16.99	7	2
8	UNCOMMON WOMAN: PRINCESS VICKY **Hannah Pakula** *(Weidenfeld & Nicolson)*	£24.95	0	1
9	X-FILES BOOK OF THE UNEXPLAINED Vol I **Jane Goldman** *(Simon & Schuster)*	£15.99	5	15
10	IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY **Elizabeth George** *(Bantam)*	£16.99	0	1

PAPERBACK

1	TRAINSPOTTING **Irvine Welsh** *(Minerva)*	£6.99	4	26
2	THE RAINMAKER **John Grisham** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	1	4
3	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM **Kate Atkinson** *(Black Swan)*	£5.99	2	7
4	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS **David Guterson** *(Bloomsbury)*	£5.99	5	23
5	LADDER OF YEARS **Anne Tyler** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	6	3
6	THE STATE WE'RE IN **Will Hutton** *(Vintage)*	£7.99	3	8
7	ACID HOUSE **Irvine Welsh** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	7	15
8	FREE TO TRADE **Michael Ridpath** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	0	6
9	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS **Graham Hancock** *(Mandarin)*	£6.99	14	2
10	THE JUROR **George Dawes Green** *(Bantam)*	£5.99	13	8
11	REGENERATION **Pat Barker** *(Penguin)*	£6.99	8	15
12	PALGRAVE's GOLDEN TREASURY **ed. Francis Palgrave** *(Phoenix)*	0.60p	0	1
13	THE EYE IN THE DOOR **Pat Barker** *(Penguin)*	£6.99	17	14
14	A CELESTINE PROPHECY **James Redfield** *(Bantam)*	£7.99	0	14
15	BIRDSONG **Sebastian Faulks** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	0	46
16	BREATH OF FRESH AIR **Erica James** *(Phoenix)*	£5.99	0	1
17	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£7.99	0	18
18	GARDENING FROM SCRATCH **Gay Search** *(BBC)*	£8.99	10	2
19	LOVE SONNETS **William Shakespeare** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	19	2
20	THE ROSE REVIVED **Katie Fford** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	0	1

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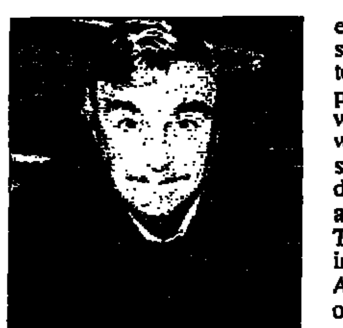
There is no escape from oddballs behind closed doors

Neighbourhood watch

NO MAN can be an island, or even write an encyclopaedia about islands, when his front-door bell is always ringing. Frank Savage was blown up and shot while serving in Northern Ireland. When he discharges himself from hospital, his remedy for the residual depression and shock is to hole up in a featureless flat high above London. He will venture out only after dark. No one will know he is there. He will occupy himself by making a methodical catalogue of all the islands of the world, in alphabetical order.

Kensington Heights seems the ideal bolt hole. It is a towering 1890s block in an anonymous neighbourhood, with creaking lifts and largely creaking residents. Savage is on the top floor, far out of reach of traffic noise and passers by. The estate agent assures him of privacy.

But, facing his windows across the central well, lives Miss Bombazine, a "chanteuse" who entertains male clients without drawing her blinds. Mr Kostelanetz, his landlord, seems to be a spy whose murky contacts have not been informed that he has moved out. A Miss Blenkinsop would like to show him where her husband is buried in the basement. The police want to know if he is planning to use his lofty perch to shoot down royal helicopters. He has callers, day and night. He is irredeemably beset by neighbours.



Leslie Thomas: a jolly work

■ KENSINGTON HEIGHTS
By Leslie Thomas
Methuen, £15.99

I lived in a block that could have modelled for Kensington Heights when I was a child. The only neighbour who visited regularly was trying (unsuccessfully) to rouse up protest against the music that pounded the floor from what was then Biba's boutique. I wouldn't now, but I thought she was pretty odd in those days, and I've no problem at all envisaging the rest of Thomas's cast of crazies lurking behind other closed doors. Although they always hover on the brink of parody, they seem perfectly credible. The trouble with Thomas's novels is usually with the straight men, who can be dull and wooden in comparison.

But not Savage. His illness is real and terrible, his depression painfully described. He must travel a far-from-smooth road to salvation before he can safely abandon his lonely magnum opus.

This is a moving and jolly book, rose-tinted as always with this author, but with hardly a dull moment and difficult not to be cheered by. Bad things do happen to people in Thomas's books, but human contact — nosy, bossy, dotty and intrusive — will always save them in the end.

ROSE WILD

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Victorian treats to fill a cupboard

WHEN so many picture books are either too big or too small, **The Book Cupboard** is a pleasant surprise. Orion has reproduced six interesting 19th-century picture books from the Bodleian Library, Oxford, as miniature paperbacks, and slotted them into a single hard cover (sensibly sized) which folds out, triptych-fashion, into a charming *trompe l'oeil* bookcase (designed by Ian Butterworth) crammed with children's classics.

So the real books — illustrated nursery or nonsense rhymes by Lear, Greenaway, Caldecote *et al* — are protected from being lost or chewed while (who knows?) the titles on the spines of the *trompe l'oeil* books could one day kindle youthful curiosity. At £9.99 they are a lovely gift for a baby or pre-schooler.

In **Hilda Hen's Scary Night** (Gollancz, £3.99) Mary Wormell evokes the early days of colour printing by using line-cut illustrations. They are strong and bold but graceful, and Hilda's story is a joy for all under-fives.

Richly coloured paper collage is used to great effect by the American artist Debra Frasier in **On The Day You Were Born** (Barefoot Books, £8.99). It tells of the wonders of the Earth in terms that under fives can enjoy and is attractive in a New Age, Newbury-bypass sort of way.

Martin Rowson's pictures for Anna Clarke's **The Nodland Express** (Macmillan, £7.99) would be so much nicer if he did not draw people with horrible, round, staring eyes. Otherwise, this imaginative excursion by rail into the land of dreams is full of witty detail: two children with the impeccably Islingtonian names of Isaac and Maude find themselves at bedtime in an old-fashioned train. They pull up sleepily at Nodland Central Station (which boasts "Glass of Water Office" and a "Tucking-up Office") after kindly customs officials have turned all undesirables — nightmares, witches, wolves — off the train. For under sevens.

Another night excursion, with gentler pictures by Prue Berthon, takes little Rosella and her dog to the ends of the universe in Rosalynne Greenaway's **Ladder to the Stars** (Barefoot Books, £8.99). Rosella's starry meetings with a spirit and a hooded old man are vaguely mystical, and it is not surprising to find that the author is a Jungian student with links to the Rudolph Steiner movement.

Two to five-year-old fans of Richard Fowler's pop-in-the-slot books will love **Little Chick's Big Adventure** (Doubleday, £5.99). The successful formula of "popping" a character into slots on each page to create the story helps little ones to feel in charge.

A "paper-engineered" book for older, more careful hands (six plus) is Robert Crowther's highly ingenious **Pop-Up Olympics** (Walker, £12.99). If you must buy an Olympics book this year, this one would be most fun. Pull tabs to make the gymnasts somersault and the swimmers race — almost as good as being there.

SARAH JOHNSON

هكذا من الأصل

Drawing on a tortured past

Sinister yet extremely funny, this first novel is a brilliant portrait of a psychopathic breakdown, says **Mary Loudon**

Gregory Lynn — 35 years old, an orphan, bachelor, only child from the age of four and a half — has one brown eye, one green. His sister Janice dies of meningitis, aged seven. His mother miscarries her third baby, and he watches. His father dies when he is 11. At school he is laughed at, called weird.

Gregory begins a diary, not of words but pictures, in which the formative events in his life are carefully and accurately depicted. Later, when his mother dies, Gregory discovers a clutch of less-than-average school reports in the attic, revealing to him the brutality and the haphazardness of judgment passed upon one person by another.

Paranoid and wounded, Gregory becomes obsessed with order, logic and a sense, however skewed, of justice. He decides to seek out his old school teachers to put things right, and the pictures change; representation becomes re-presentation; demonstration becomes a revision of events.

Drawing, for Gregory, offers no release from the pain of the past but it does provide a means by which the future might be controlled. By drawing things, says Gregory, sometimes you can make them happen. So Gregory draws alternative outcomes, the sort of thing that a counsellor might encourage in occupational therapy. Except that Gregory's alternative outcomes all involve torture.

■ ACTS OF REVISION
By Martyn Bedford
Bantam Press, £14.99

Acts of Revision is a brilliant portrait of a psychopathic breakdown which, as anyone who has ever been near even the mildly psychotic will recognise, is in fact much less of a breakdown than a build-up: a build-up of an enormous barrier.

The barrier is constructed from pain and anger, held together with logic, and made flexible enough that anyone coming up against it will simply bounce off. It might be warped, bent out of shape, but it is impenetrable.

When Gregory is charged with acts of violence, he draws a picture of his barrister attempting to push through a thin black line which divides them. The barrister fails. This is because he cannot see that for Gregory it is understanding, and not misunderstanding, which lies at the heart of his need to commit acts of revision.

Gregory — who has sexually assaulted one teacher and posted to another hundreds of cut-up hands "loose in the envelope so that when [he] opens it they flutter about him like confetti" — relishes "this lack of communication, this failure of language between us. It's the one way he will learn to appreciate my point of view."

Martyn Bedford has produced an exceptional first novel. He is a clever and stylish writer: his prose is enormously controlled. This does not mean that Bedford lacks guts or passion — there is plenty of both in *Acts of Revision*, most of it ghastly. This is a profoundly sinister work, and all the more so for being wildly funny too.

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Scruton: excellent introduction and meaty reflection

■ MODERN PHILOSOPHY
An Introduction and Survey
By Roger Scruton
Mandarin, £6.99

THIS IS Scruton's pay-off mix. Despite the title and Scruton's insistence that there are no "central questions in philosophy", this volume is very much like A. J. Ayer's *Central Questions in Philosophy* in that it is based on a series of lectures; it also provides an overview of philosophical constructions and all the old favourites, albeit with the emphasis on the 20th century.

Perhaps its genesis explains its immediacy. *Modern Philosophy*'s strength lies in it being both an excellent introduction to the subject and a meaty reflection on it. Clear and witty (Scruton is marvellously witty about the French: "deconstruction deconstructs itself, and disappears up its own behind, leaving only a disembodied smile and a faint smell of sulphur"). Scruton is also polemical without distorting the subject matter. You won't always agree with Scruton, but at least you'll be able to understand him and, despite the book's length, there are no longueurs.

A considerable study guide is appended to the book should you want to delve further, and even rereading it made me itch to get to a good library. If you are only going to read one book on Modern Philosophy, you should read this one. Tasty food for thought.

■ CARRY ME LIKE WATER
By Benjamin Alire Saenz
Headline, £6.99

MOVING between California and the US-Mexican border, this extraordinary first novel explores the fluidity of the boundaries of race, culture and society in the face of the individual's need for lasting human relationships. The novel is peopled by characters in a post-Aids world, enacting a dark Shakespearean comedy of disguised origins and separated siblings. A desire for reconciliation — even of the dead with their native land — is fulfilled in a close-knit community of family and friends on the El Paso border.

■ PLAYLAND
By John Gregory Dunne
Granta, £6.99

SCREENWRITER Jack Broderick is researching a film on Detroit lowlife when he stumbles across Blue Tyler, 1940s child star, living in a trailer-park. In his growing obsession with her career, he lifts the veil on 1940s and 1950s Hollywood to reveal the corruption underneath. Dunne has produced a cast of strong characters, catching the squalid, fetid atmosphere of the film industry past and present.

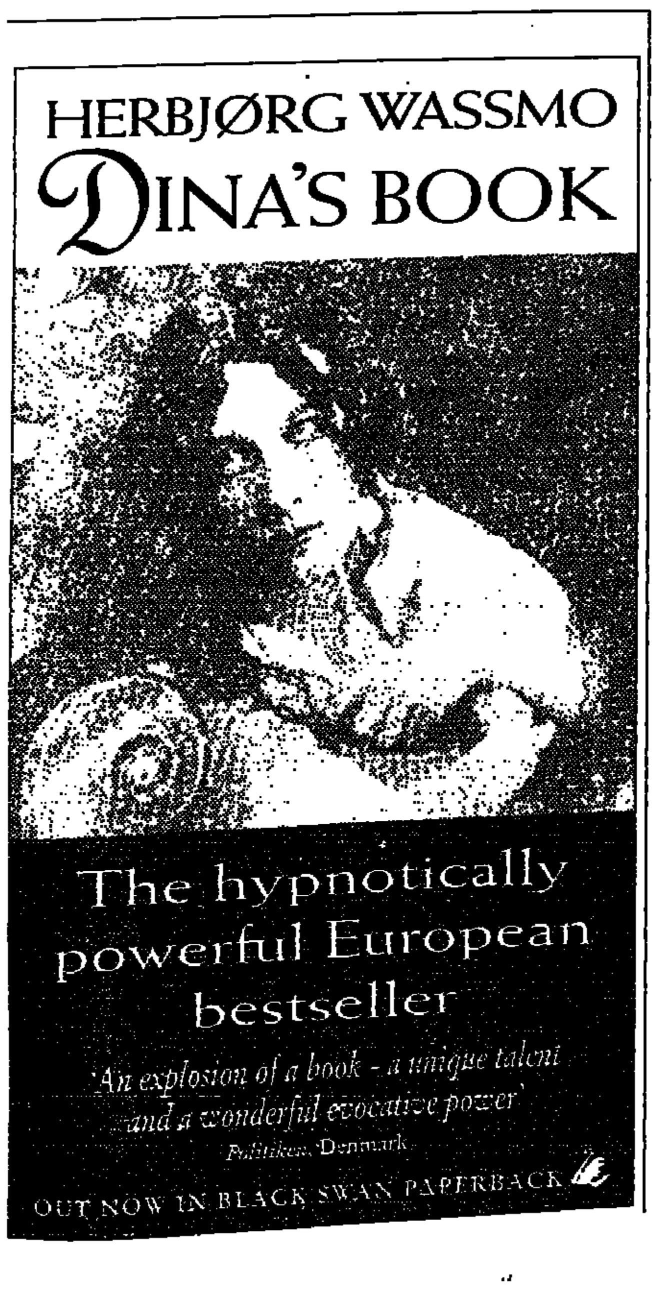
■ WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS
By Geoff Nicholson
Quartet, £7

ERIC the accountant decides that what his family needs to pull them out of their rut is a nice caravan holiday. In a *Wish You Were Here* scripted by Hieronymous Bosch he catches his trim and attractive wife Kathleen *in flagrante* with two dwarves, narrowly escapes being sacrificed by his teenage son who has gone native and is forgiven by a daughter who has embraced religion. Bullying by a policeman who cries at Mozart at last pushes him over the edge, and he exacts a satisfying revenge.

■ A SAFE CONDUCT
By Peter Vansittart
Peter Owen, £9.95

SET IN the tumultuous final years of the Middle Ages in a European principality, this remarkable novel evokes a world rife with fear, superstition and violence. The Graf, in the lofty fastness of his castle, watches the peasantry who in turn regard him with suspicion and resentful loyalty. Then into this closed world comes a procession of children. The Children's Revolt forces a feudal society to confront the tide of change that will eventually bring the Reformation and the modern age. Vansittart's lucid prose is a delight and full of images that conjure up a world of cold, mysterious magic.

Contributors: Tibor Fischer, Fiona Hook, Lucy Lethbridge, Amanda Loose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How scarred is my Welsh valley

■ STATE OF DESIRE
By Catherine Merriman
Macmillan, £15.99

DEATH and sex are often said to lie back to back. Catherine Merriman's new novel, *State of Desire*, is a highly charged exploration of the sexual crisis which overwhelms Jenny Parsons at the end of her first year of widowhood. Throughout the novel Merriman creates an atmosphere of risk-taking sexuality and of desire without an ounce of romance in it.

State of Desire is set in the Welsh valleys, and the first rugby international without her husband has been as tough for Jenny as any personal anniversary. In her late thirties, she has not expected widowhood. Merriman skilfully links the changes in Jenny's private landscape to the threatened despoliation of the mountain above her cottage, where British Coal plans an opencast mine.

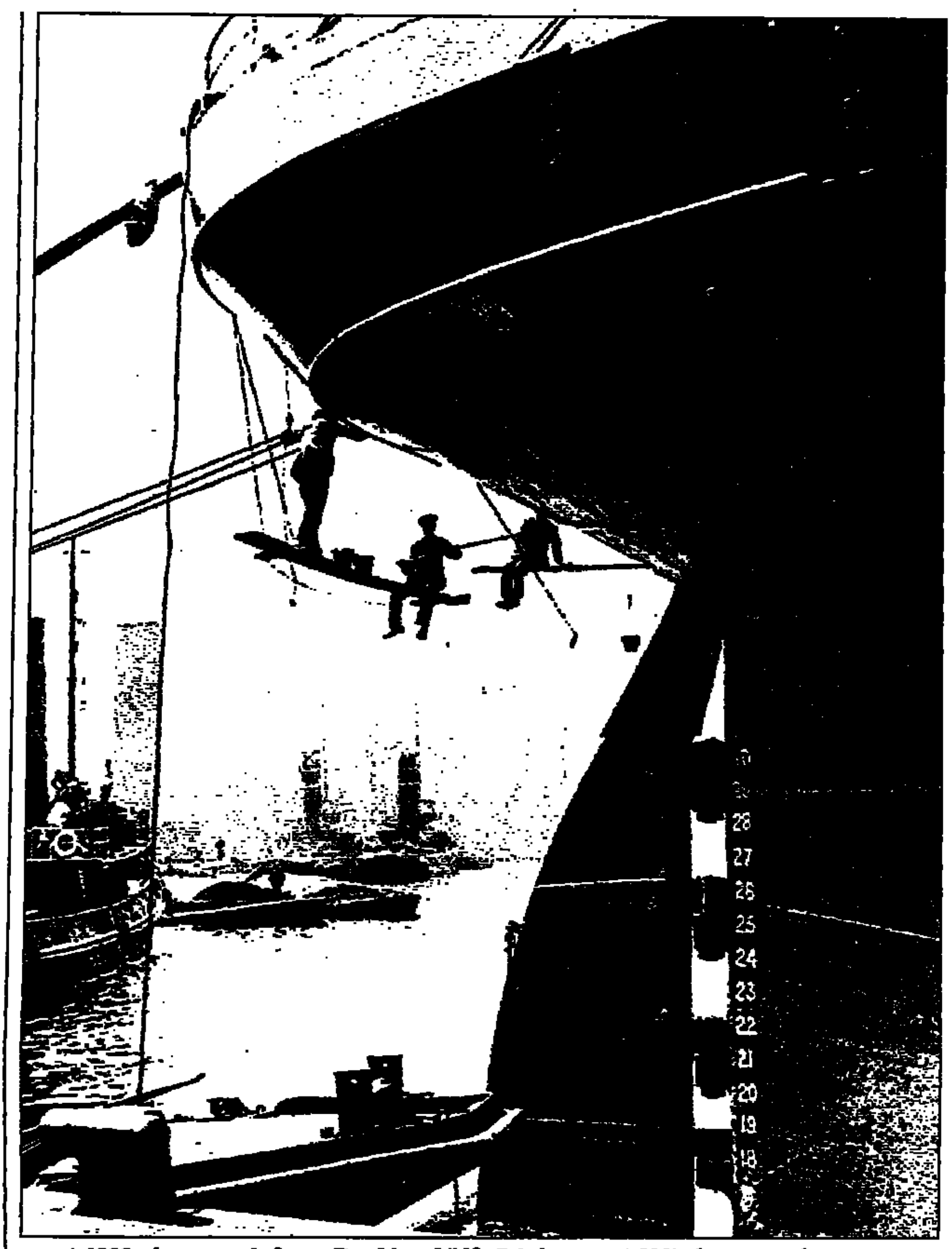
Like Merriman herself, Jenny is an English incomer who has come to love the valleys' blend of natural beauty and post-industrial scarring. Jenny begins an intense affair with a young man closer to her son's age than her own and, as her involvement deepens, so does her interest in the campaign against the opencast mine. But this is a closed, inter-related community which demands concealment in exchange for a blind eye turned to the discreet.

With her lover, Jenny decides to film the mountain top as evidence that this cannot be dismissed as low-grade, disposable land. She imagines that she controls the lens, but she herself is being filmed, and the images which will later be exposed are startling.

A weakness of *State of Desire* is that Jenny's grief for her husband and the texture of her lost marriage are not convincing. The letters she writes to her dead husband read as a device to convey information and move the plot forward.

However, Merriman is on home ground for most of this novel. Christmas-tree factories may have replaced deep mines in the Welsh valleys, but the landscape remains unique, and Merriman weaves it into the texture of her fiction without sentimentality or caricature.

HELEN DUNMORE



A 1930 photograph from *Dockland Life* (Mainsteam, £20) shows workmen on swinging stages painting the counter stern of a ship in dry dock

Flesh versus faith

As a husband succumbs to temptation, his wife is seduced by religion

TIME was when women were not, as St Augustine would have it, in God's image. Julia O'Faolain's fat anthology devoted to male fulminations throughout the centuries provides the examples. Even so, from St Agatha to St Zita, women have proved remarkably faithful to a dismissive God, while men have proved remarkably faithful to the flesh.

This paradox is apparent in the 15-year-old marriage of Flora and Simon. Having talked Flora out of her Roman Catholicism, television film director Simon, more or less content with his three children and comfortable home, is worried that the religious bug is resurfacing in Flora.

At the same time, he meets Gillian, an accountant, whose emphasis on autonomy — financial and emotional — and candid (a word used often to describe her) gaze suggest teasing but uncomplicated delights. Simon falls and falls hard: "Sex, after all, is an awful lot more than it's cracked up to be."

■ A PURE CLEAR LIGHT
By Madeleine St John
Fourth Estate, £12.99

While Simon succumbs to temptation, Flora, shaken by a sense that something is wrong, picks her way to the door of the Anglican church and is made welcome by the vicar and his thoroughly modern wife, a theological don. Soon she is attending services on Sunday.

Patronising and busy negotiating an emotional — as opposed to spiritual — odyssey, Simon, nevertheless, loves his cool, suffering wife enough to shut up. Inevitably, he and Gillian are rumbled by one of Flora's friends.

"There's a lot to be said for the rules," comments another friend, and this slender, pared-to-the-bone but substantial novel offers justification for this contention. Religion offers the sanctuary of defined limits and an additional bonus of faith, leaving those outside to envy its rigour and riches. As Flora concludes: unlike a husband, belief in God gives scope for the benefit of the doubt.

Like toffee, *A Pure Clear Light* should be chewed over, not swallowed in a lump. Not one word is wasted by the author, who clearly despises ornamentation and is ruthless in driving her narrative forward. A triumph of the minimalist, it appraises love, both sacred and profane, desire, pain and the disappointments of this earth with a laser eye.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

Pill-poppers and high fashion set the pace in a romantic thriller

Sex, drugs and a daily paper

IMAGINE a recreational drug with almost Faustian properties. Something to keep you permanently slim, permanently happy and sexually tireless. Such a drug, called White Doves, is at the heart of Sally Beauman's new romantic thriller, a classic Friday-night read.

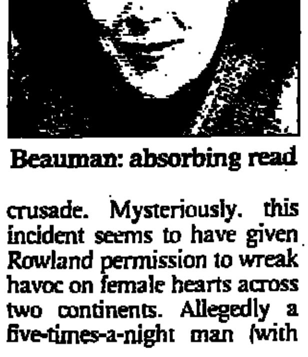
What you need at that time are not bleak insights into the human heart but glamour, excitement, exotic backgrounds, hardening nipples, and true love always winning through. It's all there as Sally Beauman takes us authoritatively into the worlds of Parisian high fashion and a national daily paper, two places where it seems everybody is after those White Doves.

■ DANGER ZONES
By Sally Beauman
Bantam Press, £15.99

Take Jean Lazare, enigmatic and power-mad head of the multimillion fashion house, Cazarès. Are the drugs for him or for his designer and partner, the gifted but increasingly unstable Maria? Then there's Star, the beautiful, depraved supplier of this drug, who believes that he has his own personal account to settle with that enigmatic couple.

Finally there's our hero: the green-eyed, black-haired Rowland McGuire, features editor and scourge of the female subs at Wapping. His own crusade for declaring war on drug traffickers is fuelled by the loss of his girlfriend, six years ago, in a drugs-related accident.

However, this is not his only crusade. Mysteriously, this incident seems to have given Rowland permission to wreak havoc on female hearts across two continents. Allegedly a five-times-a-night man (with no chemical aids whatsoever), he eschews all involvement, allowing women only six weeks in his life. At the very first use of the "d" word (darling) the morning after, he's into his old tweed trousers before you can say commitment.



Beauman: absorbing read

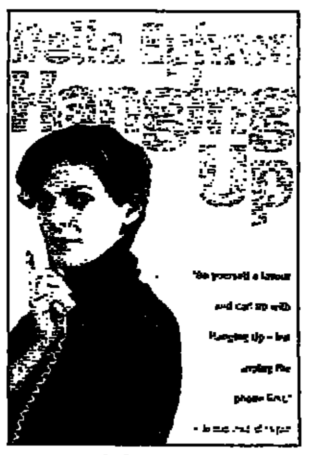
But Nemesis is awaiting Rowland in the person of Gini Hunter, a top feature writer but burnt out after Bosnia, whom he sends on the track of these elusive drugs. There's a terrific climax in every sense, set against a Paris driven into a frenzy by the seasonal collections, when the true effects of the White Doves are discovered and all scores settled.

Danger Zones is compulsively readable and utterly engrossing — one of those books which hooks you from page one until you reluctantly surrender it in the small hours of Saturday morning.

FRANCES DONNELLY

All about Eve's woe

A hilarious portrait of a daughter, wife and mother in a crisis



A novel that makes you laugh and cry by turns

■ HANGING UP
By Delia Ephron
Fourth Estate, £9.99

DYSFUNCTIONAL does not begin to describe the Mozell family. For a start, the generations are upside down: the parents, Patricia and Lou, behave like children, leaving their daughters, Georgia, Eve and Maddy, no choice but to grow up too fast. The three girls have to take care of themselves and from an early age look after Lou, a plaintive alcoholic who is as demanding as a baby, without a baby's appeal.

The burden of being her father's keeper falls mainly on Eve, the middle daughter and the novel's narrator. Unfortunately for her, she has missed out on the airy self-absorption that her two sisters have developed as armour.

Georgia edits a glossy magazine named after her, and, while Eve is coping with Lou's bizarre and terminal decline in Los Angeles, stays in New York putting out the tenth anniversary issue: "A complete nightmare — I can't possibly convey what I'm going through." Maddy is similarly unhelpful.

The action swoops backwards and forwards, charting the progress of Lou's craziness: overdoses, hasty marriages, breakdowns and temporary incarcerations in psychiatric units. Wherever he is, he telephones Eve umpteen times a day, a sure way to drive her as mad as he is.

When he does not phone, she worries that he might be dead and Eve fears death as much as madness. Although her husband Joe is reassuring and her teenage son, Jesse, is sweet-natured, Eve has dark dreams of leaving as her mother did before her because, as Patricia once explained, "I turned 45".

You cannot blame Eve for wanting out: she is horribly over-burdened, not only by Lou but by her job organising conferences in unlikely venues. Her current project is a meeting of ear, nose and throat doctors in the Nixon library, complete with models of Nixon's daughters in their wedding outfits.

Ephron's portrait of a woman in crisis is both heartwrenching and hilarious. With a series of snapping one-liners, she can turn the subject of distintegrating old age into a laughing matter that threatens to make you cry.

PENNY PERRICK

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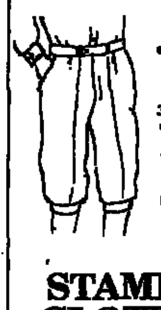

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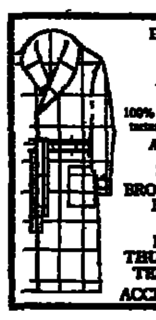

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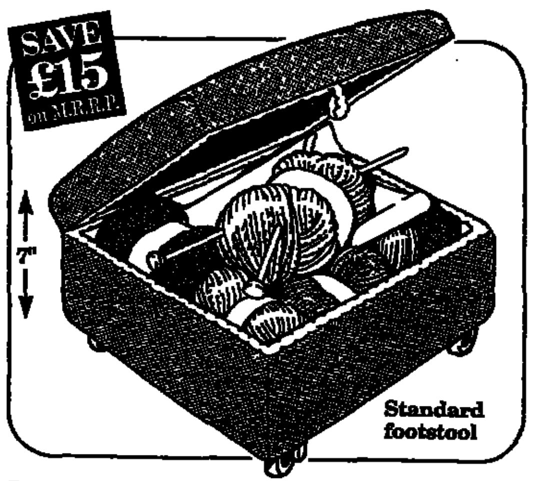

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By JOANNE GLOVER

It's hard to imagine the fabulous treasures that lie buried deep in the vaults of the secretive Swiss bankers, it is highly unusual to have the opportunity of personally acquiring some of that treasure to add to one's own family heirlooms. From a recently discovered hoard in a Zurich bank these are original French gold bullion coins minted during the reign of Napoleon I. Dated from 1809 to 1814 these are genuine gold twenty franc coins, bearing the head of Napoleon depicted as a Roman Emperor wearing a laureate wreath. Throughout history the gold Napoleon has meant to the French populace the same as a gold sovereign has meant to the British people. The earliest date of a gold sovereign is 1817 and one of those recently sold at auction for £2,800. Not only are these gold Napoleons approaching 200 years old but they also bear the head of one of Europe's most historic figures, Napoleon I. Each coin is just over one fifth (6.4516gm.) of an oz. of .900 fine gold and in remarkably well-preserved condition. High demand is expected from all over Europe for these historic coins and at a distribution price of only £98.50 each which includes P&P, it's not surprising. I've already applied for three and requested different dates. I for one don't want to miss out on such an unusual opportunity. You should try your luck too, who knows? You may be one of the lucky ones who ends up owning one of Europe's most historic gold coins, an original Gold Napoleon. You should apply in writing stating the number you would like, along with your name, address and postcode to The Gold and Silver Bureau at 3 Sevenways, Ilford, Essex, IG2-6XH. If you are lucky enough to be allocated any, it will have been well worth the effort.

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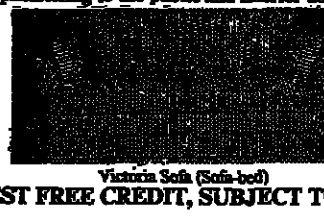

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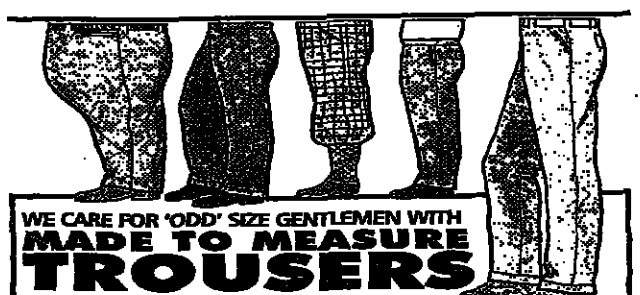

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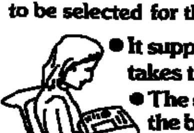

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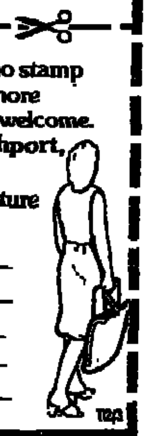

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Subtle 'green' scents are stealing the show from the power perfumes of the 1980s

The sweet smell of success

Think of the 1980s and what comes to mind? Power suits, big hair, conspicuous consumption. Likewise, Eighties perfumes were dramatic, strong enough to last through a power lunch and into the evening, often making an entrance before you did. When you wore Giorgio, everyone in business class knew you were wearing Giorgio.

Then came the recession and the new spirit of the 1990s. Downsizing has been followed by "downshifting". "Greed is good" has turned into "Green is good". And the new perfumes reflect this spirit — subtler and less exotic.

Heady perfumes with aggressive names such as Poison and Opium have been joined by softer, simpler scents such as Sun Moon Stars (Karl Lagerfeld), Angel (Thierry Mugler) and Escape (Calvin Klein). And the chemistry of the scents has changed. Professional noses are now producing lighter base notes with less spice and making more use of light flower essences such as orchid, daffodil and vanilla. That means that the new scents don't travel as far or last as long. The admiring question, "What's that you're wearing?" has now become the more intriguing, "Are you wearing anything at all?"

Some of the fashionable new sweet florals include Estée Lauder's Pleasures, a strong seller smelling of white roses; Dior's Dolce Vita, which advertises itself as "a spirit of happiness"; Elizabeth Arden's True Love; and Carolina Herrera's Flore (jasmine, lily of the valley, musk and sandalwood). Even Sheila Pickles, owner of the perfumier Penhaligon's, who says that she never pays attention to trends, has just relaunched Violetta that smells of, yes, violets.

From left, L'Eau d'Issey eau de toilette 50ml, £32; LouLou Blue spray 35ml, £12.50; LouLou eau de parfum 30ml, £17.50

These sweeter, lighter fragrances are attracting younger buyers. Givenchy bypassed the traditional department stores when it launched its Fleur d'Interdit (raspberry, melon, vanilla and sandalwood) directly into Boots, backing it with advertising in teenage magazines. The price was also aimed at a younger market. 100ml eau de parfum of Fleur d'Interdit costs £27.50; Givenchy's more sophisticated Amarige costs £48 for 100ml. "We launched Fleur d'Interdit there to reach young women between the ages of 15 and 25," says Emmanuel Maze-Sencier, marketing manager of Givenchy UK. "Boots was best by far at reaching that market."

So did it work? Givenchy is not saying, but a survey by *European Cosmetic Markets* (a trade publication) on scents bought in 1994, names it as a teen market favourite.

Other established perfume houses are capitalising on this trend by launching light fragrances from the springboard of old favourites. Giorgio, for instance, has simply lightened its eponymous fragrance, softened the logo, but kept the name. Other houses have created "flanker" fragrances that build on established names, such as Dior's Poison and Tendre Poison. Cacharel had a hit in 1994 with LouLou, and has now launched LouLou Blue, "the TechnoScent of the 90s" (vanilla, orange blossom, mimosa, ylang-ylang and a dash of tiare lily).

According to the *European Cosmetic Markets* survey, 56 per cent of 11 to 16-year-olds used fragrance at least weekly in 1994, but more than a third prefer the body spray — the lightest and normally cheapest in a range. The favourites are LouLou Blue, Fleur l'Interdit, Addiction (Fabergé) and CK One (Calvin Klein).

Versace has introduced Baby Rose and Baby Blue Jeans for teenage girls and boys on the back of his popular Red Jeans and Blue Jeans. Five fragrances have been launched by Gap (Dream, Grass, Heaven, Day and Earth), and one by Monsoon (called Monsoon). In fact, you can find almost any famous name jockeying for position, such as Luciano Pavarotti for men, Elizabeth Taylor's White Diamonds, and even the new Legendary Harley Davidson line for men. Some of these seem more an exercise in marketing than in creation of a fragrance.

If 11-year-olds using fragrance seems precocious, what about fragrances for babies? Givenchy was the first, in 1988, with Tartine et Chocolat. In 1994 it sold Fr100 million worth (£13 million) worldwide. Givenchy has been followed by Oilily, launched by the Dutch children's clothing manufacturer of the same name, and Petit Guerlain.

Happily for Givenchy, Tartine et Chocolat is the best-selling fragrance for women in Japan, where, according to Mr Maze-Sencier: "Seduction is about being cute. Also, the Japanese have no tradition of wearing perfume." Indeed, when Japanese superdesigner Issey Miyake was creating his scent, he directed that it should smell of water. But since this is odourless he devised a light scent including rose water and freesia called L'Eau d'Issey, sold in a bottle meant to resemble a drop of water falling into a pond.

Part of the fun of buying perfume has always been the glamour of the packaging. But the newer packaging is more whimsical. Moschino's Cheap and Chic red and black bottle is modelled after Popeye's girl, Olive Oyl. Angela Creasy, perfume buyer for Harrods, says: "The packaging has become much more fun. We find that people are buying pairs of Gaultier men's and women's scent just to have the bottles which are shaped like curvy human torsos." Other perfume houses are using plain recycled cardboard boxes, such as that for CK One.

Men's fragrances are also following the trend for lightness and whimsy, but more slowly. Ms Creasy sees them catching up with women's in a year or so. Harrods is about to launch its range for men; a traditional apothecary feel and smell, with lemon, tangerine, coriander, nutmeg and vanilla.

Whatever the trend, Christmas and Valentine's Day produce peak perfume sales, when classic scents reassert their hold. "While women may buy a scent from one of the fashion lines for themselves, the luxury fragrances are seen as gifts," Ms Creasy says. So even if you're yearning for an up-to-the-minute fragrance such as Versace's new Blonde, you are likely to be given classics such as Joy (probably the most expensive) and Chanel No 5.

NANCY PATTON WOOD

Cheap and Chic bottles, modelled on Olive Oyl, from Moschino; Gaultier's Female spray, right, 50ml £35; and Le Male, 75ml £29.50

PRICE CHECK

☐ PRICES are for eau de toilette unless otherwise stated: True Love (Elizabeth Arden) 50ml, £29.95; LouLou (Cacharel) eau de parfum 30ml, £17.50; LouLou Blue (Cacharel) spray 35ml, £12.50; Chanel No 5 (Chanel) 50ml, £35; Cool Water (Davidoff) spray 75ml, £29; Poison (Christian Dior) 50ml, £36; Tendre Poison (Dior) 50ml, £33; Dolce Vita (Dior) spray 50ml, £33; Addictions (Fabergé) 50ml, £8.50; Dream (Gap) spray 120ml, £12 (also Grass, Earth, Heaven, Day); Jean-Paul Gaultier Female spray 50ml, £35, Le Male spray 75ml, £29.50; Giorgio (Giorgio) 50ml, £33; Fleur d'Interdit (Givenchy) spray 50ml, £17.50; Tartine et Chocolat (Givenchy) spray 100ml, £26.50; Petit Guerlain (Guerlain) 50ml, £16; Flore (Carolina Herrera) eau de parfum 50ml, £31.95; Escape (Calvin Klein) 50ml, £35; CK One (Calvin Klein) spray 50ml, £19.95; Sun Moon Stars (Karl Lagerfeld) 30ml, £19; Pleasures (Estée Lauder) eau de parfum 15ml, £17.50; Legendary Harley Davidson (L'Oreal) spray 50ml, £9.99; L'Eau d'Issey (Issey Miyake) 50ml, £32; Monsoon spray 50ml, £24.95; Moschino Cheap and Chic 50ml, £26; Angel (Thierry Mugler) eau de parfum 25ml, £32; Oilily eau de parfum 30ml, £11.95; Joy (Jean Patou) 45ml, £50; Luciano Pavarotti for men spray 75ml, £27; Violetta (Penhaligon's) spray 50ml, £30; Opium (Yves Saint Laurent) 25ml, £31; Elizabeth Taylor's White Diamonds 50ml, £29.95; Red Jeans (Versace) 75ml, £19.95; Blue Jeans (Versace) 75ml, £19.95; Baby Rose (Versace) 50ml, £17; Baby Blue Jeans (Versace) spray 50ml, £17; Blonde (Versace) eau de parfum 10ml, £30, pre-launch edition only at Harvey Nichols. Nationwide launch later this spring.

☐ *European Cosmetic Markets*, Nicholas Hall & Company, 35 Alexandra Street, Southend on Sea, SS1 1BW (01702 433422).

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This video will answer all your questions about Impotence, and more. It will explain how your system works, what can go wrong, and what to do about an Impotence problem. It will give you the latest information on the natural, alternative and medical remedies now used in Britain and throughout Europe.

In the Video you will hear from 3 LEADING BRITISH AUTHORITIES on Impotence disorders. You will then hear from noted Consultant Urological Surgeon Mr. Kenneth Moore, of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield about the LATEST ADVANCES in natural, alternative and medical treatments.

You will hear from Kate Wilcox, psycho-sexual therapist – also from the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield. She will tell you about the psycho-therapeutic treatments for Impotence disorders now being used in Britain with incredible success. In addition Patricia Allen, a clinical nurse specialist will tell you about the latest medical devices used in the treatment of impotence.

Unfortunately, very few sufferers fully understand the medical and psychological reasons for Impotence. Yet, knowing what it really is, how to avoid problems and what to do about Impotence could vastly improve the quality of your love life.

In this new one-hour Video, you will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear Britain's most knowledgeable experts tell you all about Impotence – the problems and various solutions available. Once you view this highly informative Video in the privacy of your own home, you'll discover there are treatments that WORK.

These include treatments that you can start to use the minute you finish watching this fascinating Video. You will learn:
- About the 2 million men in the UK who suffer from Impotence.
- The main causes of Impotence.
- 40 ailments and illnesses which can all cause Impotence, some of which are very common.
- The Diabetes link.
- A simple test used to diagnose which Impotence you have.
- The benefits and possible dangers of current medical treatments for Impotence, including:
  - Injections
  - Patches
  - Hormone Replacement Therapy for men
  - Vacuum Devices
  - Penal Implants and splints
  - Inflatable implants
  - Psycho-sexual therapy

In this invaluable 1-hour Video you will discover natural, surgical and non-surgical treatments that have brought blessed relief to thousands of men who suffered Impotence distress. You'll hear about actual case studies of men who have overcome Impotence problems. You will also learn about:
- Regenerative therapy
- Aphrodisiacs
- Hypnotherapy
- The energising ring
- Penis enlargement
- and future developments expected for the treatment of this very common problem.

If you have not been totally satisfied with the results obtained from treatments received, YOU ARE NOT ALONE. Many men are unhappy with the side effects of drug and surgical procedures.

This new Video will introduce you to Britain's Top Impotence Authorities... they will tell you about natural alternatives and natural remedies... and best of all you'll get hope and reassurance that Impotence can be overcome.

This new Video is sold for £29.95 – however, through this SPECIAL OFFER you can have a copy for ONLY £19.95 (plus postage and handling).

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Magic lantern throws the light fantastic

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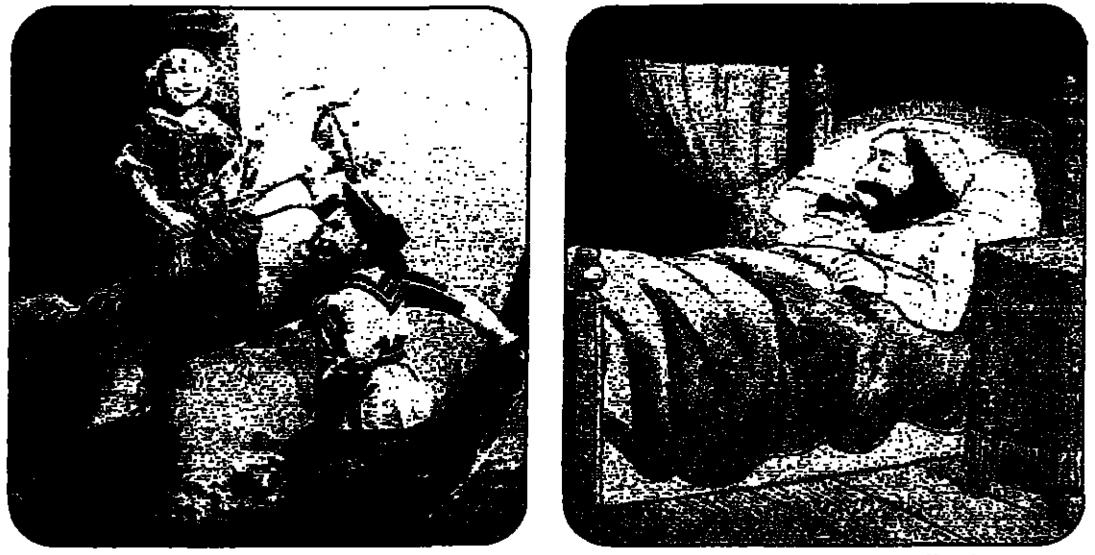

Left, a hand-tinted slide from the early 1900s; right, a popular slide of a sleepyhead swallowing a rat

Left, tin lantern; above, Rosemary Gill in front of Eddie and Dolly Gargery, from a south London family whose life is depicted on slides

Slide shows were a popular source of entertainment in Victorian days. Now they have a new, enchanted audience

Even today's sophisticated children, supposedly blasé about high-tech virtual reality, are as entranced as adults by the magic lantern shows that Rosemary Gill stages in schools, museums and church halls.

"They particularly love Victorian stories such as the *Street Cries of London*, which illustrates the social history of the poor and shows the toys and costumes of the period," Mrs Gill says. "But often the children are more fascinated by the lanterns than by what is on the screen."

Mrs Gill, a lecturer at the *Museum of Childhood*, Bethnal Green, east London, became a lanternist by accident. "My late husband bought me two Victorian slides one Christmas," she says. "One was of a beautiful dapple-grey rocking horse with a boy in the saddle and a girl by his side. The other was an illustration of the nursery rhyme *See Saw Margery Daw*. It wasn't until my husband restored a lantern he had bought for £10 from Greenwich market that I saw the slides properly.

"We projected them on to a door and I realised how beautiful and vibrant the colours were, painted on glass. I found myself hooked. Now I have four lanterns and 2,000-3,000 slides covering everything from the life of a south London family called Gargery, who were in the leather trade in Bermondsey, to London at the end of the the Second World War, floodlit in celebration of the end of the blackout.

"Magic-lantern shows appeal to my theatrical sense," Mrs Gill says. "As the narrator I learn the poems and stories by heart, but I get the audience to do storms, wind and rain if sound effects are required.

"It doesn't matter how much you magnify the slides, they still have accuracy and colour. They were hand-painted by women in factories, and some are extraordinarily beautiful. On sets you can see the colours round the outside of the glass where the illustrator tried out different shades.

"In Victorian times slides used to sell in a box of eight to 12, to go with a book. I have Beatrix Potter's *Tales of Two Bad Mice*, issued in 1904, and *Jessica's Last Prayer*, which was a tale of moral values made for the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. *Jessica's Last Prayer* was published in 1870, although the slides weren't made until the 1880s. I still root around in markets but slides are a lot more expensive now."

The origins of the magic lantern are obscure but there is evidence that they were used in 1649 by "priests" to create visions of demons and devils. Itinerant entertainers, mostly Italian, brought the more modern ones to this country in the 19th century and performed at fairs and public hangings.

By 1900 lanterns were being manufactured in England, but as they were expensive — 30 shillings excluding slides — people used to hire them from opticians. Early public taste demanded ogres and spirits which were conjured up to the sound of thunder — produced by rattling a metal sheet — with the spectre of the Grim Reaper hurtling towards the audience.

Then came a vogue for lantern soirées with tear-jerking melodramas and morality tales. Light relief was often provided by the slide of a man sleeping with his mouth open and swallowing a rat. It can be bought for about £30 today.

Magic lanterns can be grand, made of mahogany and rosewood with a brass lens adjustment and costing as much as £10,000. Rosemary Gill's lanterns are made of tin and can cost as little as £50. Recently she bought a child's lantern, the sort that Victorian parents bought their offspring for Christmas so that the children could put on their own shows. It was boxed, with a set of slides showing children opening presents with St Nicholas.

"I met an old gentleman who remembers charging a halfpenny for his lantern show in 1900," says Mrs Gill, who is a member of the Magic Lantern Society and charges between £30 and £100 a show.

The child's lantern would have been lit by candles or oil, but larger lanterns were powered by burning a highly explosive mixture of hydrogen and oxygen, the jet then lighting a cylinder of lime. Mrs Gill, and probably the fire brigade, prefers electricity to limelight.

HEATHER KIRBY

Magic lantern fact file

☐ **Buy lanterns at Camden and Greenwich markets, London, or at any market selling toys, cameras or optical equipment. Christie's the auctioneers has nine optical toy sales. For a free brochure write to: Michael Pritchard, Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7.**

☐ **See shows at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Pictureville, Bradford BD1 1NQ (01274 725347), admission free, and at the Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 3535). Adults £5.50; children £4, family ticket, up to two adults and four children, £16.**

☐ **Bookings for shows by Rosemary Gill (0181-858 5088).**

☐ **For more details write to The Magic Lantern Society, Prospect, High Street, Nutley, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 3NH.**

SALEROOM

☐ Royal commemorative china is on offer at the Padworth Court Hotel near Reading today and tomorrow (March 2 and 3). A white Parianware bust of a grumpy-looking Queen Victoria is estimated at £80 to £100; a pair of 1937 Crown Ducal mugs show the Royal Princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, £120 to £180.

☐ **Bonhams** transfers its operation from London to Guernsey on Tuesday (March 5) when it sells, on the premises, the contents of Castle Carey, the home of the late collector and linoleum magnate Frank Nairn. Its furnishings range from Persian and Turkish carpets, estimated at £30 to £40, to one of Sir Edwin Landseer's most sentimental paintings, *The Widow*, also called *Hector and Andromache* — in which a duck is seen mourning its mate — has a presale estimate of £20,000 to £30,000.

☐ **Bonhams**'s largest entertainment memorabilia sale to date is on Thursday (March 7). Delights include a pink and white striped bustier worn by Marilyn Monroe in *Some Like it Hot* (£4,000 to £6,000) as well as Errol Flynn's travelling trunk (£4,000 to £5,000).

☐ Britain's premier provincial antiques fair opens in Bath on Thursday (March 7). Items range from Victorian christening gowns and baby bonnets to tallboys and linen presses, with prices from £10 to £10,000.

☐ The London dealers **Connaught Brown** have organised an Affordable Art exhibition opening on Friday (March 8). Here an impressive line up of contemporary masters including Gillian Ayres, Frank Auerbach and Henry Moore can be bought for £2,500. Prices start at £300.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● *Connaught Brown, 2 Albemarle Street, London W1X (0171-408 0362); Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Decorative Fair, the Pavilion, North Parade, Bath (01225 442215); Bonhams Channel Islands Ltd, Castle Carey, St Peter Port, Guernsey (for information 01481 713589), Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (0171-393 3900); Padworth Court Hotel, Near Reading (for information: Special Auction Services, 01734 712949).*

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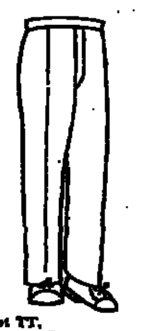

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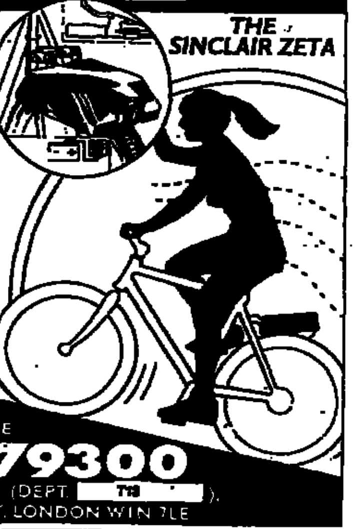

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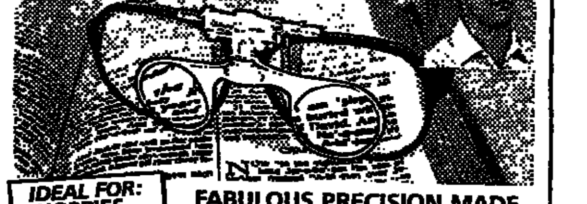

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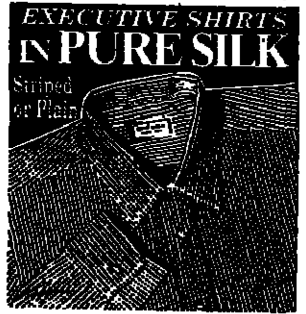

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هكذا من الأصل.

An oil-soaked guillemot lies dead on a Welsh shore: a harbinger, **Simon Barnes** writes, of a greater disaster

CHRIS HARRIS

Thousands of birds and mammals have been doomed to lingering deaths by an oil spill that, conservationists say, could and should have been prevented. The birds drown slowly; even the ones that struggle ashore often die of exhaustion

Why do we still let this happen?

In Carmarthen Bay Hundreds of scoters, left, and oystercatchers, right, are dead; seals on Skomer are threatened

Oddly enough, the first reaction is not *anger or despair*, or even compassion. It is to feel slightly dizzy: that touch of vertigo that comes when the brain refuses to process information provided by the senses.

We know about the sea. It goes swish. But here, the sea was going gloop. The waves were not waving, the rollers were not rolling. Instead, the *sea stirred* about languorously, like a cat in the sun: slow movements, smooth, rather velvety.

Oil turns the sea into something else, and the brain wants to reject the prospect of this transformation. It is surreal: a *hallucination*. And a flash from Hunter S. Thompson came to me: "No. Las Vegas is not a good place for psychedelic drugs. Reality itself is too twisted."

You don't expect to recall such words in Carmarthen Bay. But down in West Wales, reality has been severely twisted. Velvet *ripples*, sepia coloured, are glooping onto the *shore*: a Dali parody of real sea. But don't worry. It's just the latest oil spill. A little gift from a ship called *Sea Empress*.

And then the smell gets you. *Not actively unpleasant if you* didn't know what it meant: a sultry aftershave, perhaps. But it's not the briny: it's not the salt air that tastes of childhood.

There is no mistaking the *next sensation: disgust*. Not intellectual disgust: the response is visceral. *Ugh*. It comes from the roots of your being: your entire genealogy, as a member of an island nation, is expressed in this brief soul's cry.

There are plenty of disasters, though. We suffer from disaster fatigue. The cry of Save the Whales has become a joke: and what do rain forests mean to us dwellers in a northern land? Most disasters are *subtle* and *cumulative*: acid rain, global warming. We cannot get stirred emotionally, still less physically, by such things. But this is different. A single gloop is a sermon in ecological damage.

* * *

I saw my first common scoter on Staines Reservoir, in Surrey. It is a bleak place, where they have a special kind of wind, designed to freeze off all but deranged persons with binoculars. The bird was about a million miles away, a *black dot bobbing and diving* behind black wavelets.

I caught it in the telescope: shiny black, yellow-beaked: the low, compact shape of a *diving duck. It made my day.* I saw any number of scoters in Carmarthen Bay. They made me sick.

Scoters should not really be out by themselves on Staines reservoir in the winter. They *should be sitting on the sea* in vast numbers. This area of coast holds them by the thousand. Up to 25,000 at one time: seven or eight thousand have *been seen this winter*.

It is not hard to guess what happens to a bird that earns its living by sitting on the sea, when the sea is covered in oil. The sight is unimaginably pathetic. Oil is capricious stuff, *sent hither and thither* by shifting winds, breaking up into *slicklettes*. Here, at a place called — nice bit of irony — Wiseman's Bridge, there was a scoter just beyond the line of breakers: a scoter as I've never seen a duck before.

It was swimming along with an air of purpose, in a proper duck-like way. But all you could see was the head and neck. No: there was the back, showing every now and again above the surface. *Another* impossible sight: ducks don't sink. But this one was going down with all hands.

And then another scoter: also behaving as no duck should. This was one indulging in a manic head-shaking. Again and again it shook its head like a *man trying to shake water* from his ears. But oil doesn't shake worth a damn.

Oystercatchers are the most handsome and recognisable of shore-birds. They are immensely dapper: a dazzling contrast of black and white. But the oystercatchers of Carmarthen Bay *are hardly* handsome at all. A brown *breast isn't half* as smart as a white one.

A shag landed on the water in front of me. They look like cormorants but, when they dive from the surface, they do a little jump first. Again and again, the shag jumped; dived. It was like being at a pantomime: you wanted to shout: "Oi! Look behind you." With oil all around, the shag dived and dived.

* * *

The beaches were full of life. It was like a Bank Holiday. It was a lovely day; people were everywhere. They were out *gathering birds: the dead and* the dying. "We got about 70 this *morning*," said one of these volunteers, young, female, stinking. "Live ones, I mean. Don't know how many dead. Trouble is, you catch one, and it goes and dies on you."

They come to the shore to escape *the sea: once on shore*, they flap themselves into exhaustion trying to escape their rescuers. As they are running on empty already, the rescue can be the last straw. Scoters are notoriously nervy birds anyway: always liking to keep a good stretch of sea (or reservoir) between them and you. The disaster might have been custom-made *to kill* them.

And in Carmarthen Bay, they have so far collected 2,000 scoters: oiled, but alive. Also 500 dead ones. There are 500 other species also found alive; another 500 dead. Most of *these last half-thousand are* guillemots, the north's miniature flying penguins.

They have done great stuff, these volunteers. The RSPCA has been cleaning up the birds. Other conservation bodies have been passing on volunteers: the co-operation between all the conservation organisations involved has been cheering. The Dyfed Wildlife Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) are girding their loins for the coming public enquiry.

Along the beaches, the *Welsh being as good at disaster* as the English, there is a cheery Blitz spirit. But behind it, a murderous anger. "Fed up with being lied to." "Why is nobody clearing up the oil?" "How many more disasters *will it take before something is* done?" "It's not as if they haven't been warned."

* * *

The reason we go birdwatching, rather than earthworm-watching, is *that birds are* obvious. Like us, they respond to colour and sound. And because they are obvious, they are the best indicators of what is happening. A good population of birds, with birds of prey on top, means that there is not much wrong with that particular bit of planet.

When things go wrong with *birds, it generally means there* is something rotten deep in the system. All birds are the canaries down the mine: birds are the first to tell us when *things* have gone amiss.

And so it is with Carmarthen Bay. The poor scoters are but the tip of an iceberg of troubles. The sea is more than scoters: and the entire area of the oil spill is, or was, an area *of peculiar richness. It is a fine* place for the big sea-going mammals: seals, dolphins, porpoises. Seals come ashore on Skomer island — right in *the middle of the shipping lane* — to pup every autumn. There are about 100 born each year. In the past week, there have been several sightings of seals coming up *for air in oiled* water. Oil damages where it does not kill: it is feared the spill will affect the seals' long-term reproductive success.

As for the dolphins, they too have been seen surfacing in oil. Hard facts here are elusive: you can monitor the shore with ease, but monitoring the open *sea is all but impossible*. There is a delicate and secret life beneath the waves: the area has such delights as jewel anemones, soft corals, burrowing sea cucumbers and *sea squirts*. These cannot fail to be affected.

This is an area of particular natural richness and particular vulnerability. It is tricky navigationally: and very, very busy. Everyone knew all this: *has known it for years*. Only a few months ago, another tanker, the *Borga*, ended up on the rocks in a near carbon-copy of the accident with *Sea Empress*. The *Borga* was double-hulled: there was no spillage. *It was an awful warning: it* was not heeded. The *Sea Empress* was not double-hulled.

* * *

There are three big local industries around the area of the spill: oil, fishing, tourism. The livelihoods of people in two of these industries are obviously affected by the *disaster*. Presumably this is considered an acceptable risk. And, as we have seen only too vividly, and once again, the environment has been traded off against profit.

A recent poll from the *Department of the Environment* showed that 86 per cent of people in England and Wales are "concerned" about the environment. And yet the *issue slips ever lower down the* political agenda. And another tanker goes aground.

It could have been avoided. The public inquiry into *the affair of Sea Empress* should hear that the disaster would not have happened in the United States or Norway.

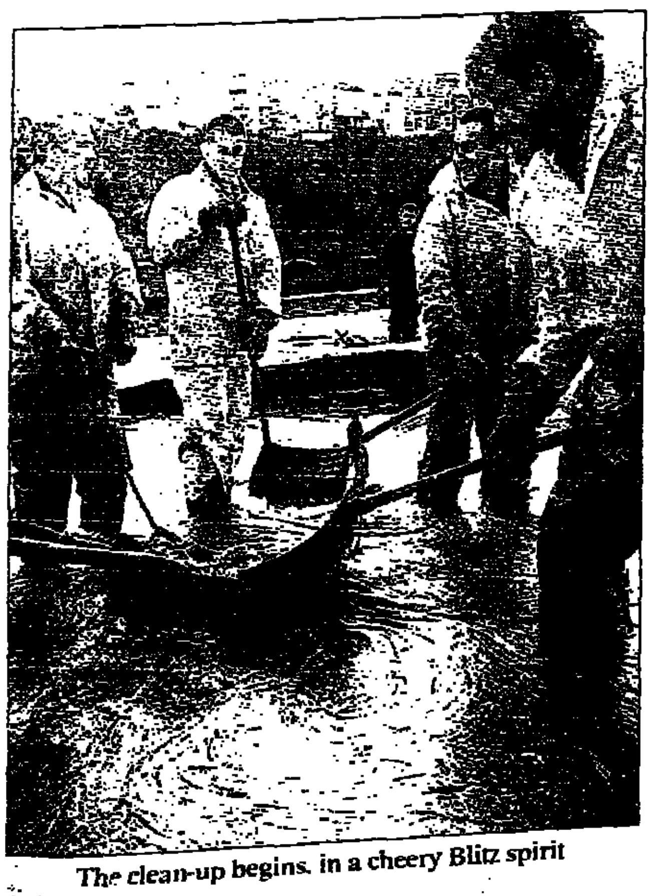
The US, learning from the *affair of the Exxon Valdez, has* taken unilateral action and declared that no new tankers will be allowed in US waters unless they have double-hulls. *Existing tankers may* continue, but only with clean-up teams on stand-by. And they will be fully liable for the cost of any environmental damage *caused by a spill*.

In Norway is it standard practice in Oslo fjords to have a pilot on board a tanker six hours out of port. A big tanker will also be escorted by tugs. Had this been the case with *Sea Empress*, the disaster would not have happened.

* * *

I walked away from the sea, *my feet making little sticking* and unsticking noises, as if I were walking on Elastoplast. Another disaster, I thought. Who cares? But I knew the answer: practically everyone. Why, then, does the environ*ment get shoved down the list* of priorities?

I felt like the man waiting for a bus. I missed the last major ecological disaster. Never mind, there'll be another one along in a minute.



The clean-up begins, in a cheery Blitz spirit

NEXT WEEK
What makes the British so bad at recycling?
Sailing: up the Thames in a gale

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BRITAIN: A peaceful retreat in Herefordshire; and the winner of the Salute to Folk Art prize

Hope End nestles in 40 acres of listed 18th-century parkland with a plethora of splendid walks. None of the rooms has TV or radio, and peace is guaranteed

All quiet on the western front

The market town of Ledbury seems to be stuck in time: since my last visit more than 20 years ago, it has changed but a jot. Perhaps a spell was cast in the 17th century and the town has slumbered on in the Welsh Marches, forgotten by time, save for the arrival of sliced bread, chicken-in-a-basket and that modern thorn in the flesh, the motor car.

At one end of the High Street is the grandest black-and-white house in Herefordshire, dated 1590, which was Prince Rupert's HQ during the Battle of Ledbury in 1645, when Royalist troops surprised a Roundhead advance from Gloucester. Even the tourist board leaflet admits nothing as exciting has happened in Ledbury since.

At the other end, near the Norman parish church, the Market House teeters impossibly on rat-defying stilts. It was built as a corn market between 1617 and 1655, is attributed to the King's Carpenter, John Abel, and still protects market stall-holders from the elements. In between is an array of old-fashioned shops and the Feathers Hotel in grand 16th-century top-heavy black and white.

Ledbury does have two literary claims to fame. The former Poet Laureate John Masefield was born there in 1878, orphaned, and brought up by an uncle until he went to sea at 13. Elizabeth Barrett Browning came to live in a tranquil valley near Ledbury with her family in 1809, when she was three. Her father bought an estate at Hope End, four miles southwest of the Malvern Hills, but did not like the mid-18th century house and built a new one in Moorish style, complete with minarets and turrets, though not all remains.

Hope End — now a hotel owned by John Hegarty, a former solicitor, and his wife Patricia, a former teacher — is a fine place for a peaceful weekend break. Hope is the old English word for a closed valley, and the house is at its closed end. But guests craving peace and quiet might call this place Hope Realised. The hotel is reached via a long drive and has only eight bedrooms, none of them with TV or radio. It features in the French guidebook of the Relais du Silence, which recommends ten high-quality hotels in Britain especially for peace and quiet.

Ledbury: Civil War echoes

The warm redbrick house nestles in 40 acres of listed 18th-century parkland. At night you can hear the beat of an owl's wing, and only the moon and stars light the secret valley. From our bedroom window at dawn, we watched entranced as a young fox gambolled on a frosted grass bank.

We drove to Upton upon Severn, another ancient town, and imagined hazy summer days at the pubs by the great river. On the return trip we passed Eastnor Castle, where the TV version of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* was filmed. It looks like a fairytale prince's pad and is open to the public. In the distance the lights of the Malvern Hills twinkled in the frosty light.

There are several gardens to visit and pleasant walks. The Daffodil Way, which starts at Dymock, is ripe in March. Vineyards such as the Three Choirs, south of Dymock, make a pleasant diversion, as can cider farms like Lyne Down Farm and Westons Cider, both at Much Marcle, where Hellen's, a 13th-century house still lived in by descendants of the family who built it, is open to the public.

But many Hope End guests just relax in the grounds or in front of a log fire, or walk out from the house: a brief trek up Oyster Hill is rewarded with breathtaking views of the Malverns.

The Hegartys rescued the house from ruin 20 years ago. Mr Hegarty has also restored the 18th-century walled kitchen garden where he grows organic food for his wife, an accomplished chef, to serve in the restaurant.

Mrs Hegarty's cooking style is light modern English which, combined with old-fashioned, home-grown treats such as cardoons, sea kale, cobnuts, medlars and quince, has won some media attention. Our first dinner included mushroom roulade, followed by a chestnut soufflé accompanied by spinach picked that afternoon and swede lifted just before the frost fell. Most weeks Patricia will demonstrate a mouth-watering recipe, which should be second nature because she runs cookery courses at the hotel.

CHRISTINE WEBB

- *The author was a guest of the Hope End Hotel, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1JQ (01531 633613). Two-night weekend breaks start at £340 for two people sharing a double room, including dinner and breakfast; last-minute bookings have a standby rate of £99 per room per night; dinner is £30 per person.*
- *The hotel features in* Fruity Stores, *an eight-part Channel Four series starting next Friday.*
- *Relais du Silence, 2 Passage du Guesclin, 75015 Paris (00 331 444 99000, or ring 01736 796199 for information). The other nine hotels are in Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire.*
- *Eastnor Castle, Eastnor, Ledbury (01531 633160). Open 11am-5pm, Easter Sunday and Monday, Sundays to July 1, then Sun-Fri. Adults £4, children £2.*

TIMES/COCA-COLA COMPETITION

Inspired by Stonehenge

SOME of the most ancient sights of the British countryside inspired the winning entry in *The Times*'s competition to design a Coca-Cola bottle to reflect the spirit of Great Britain, *Guy Walters writes.*

Coca-Cola Henge, by Brian Anderson, resembles Stonehenge and other standing stones across the British Isles. In his brief, Mr Anderson stated that his piece "combines two artefacts that are both recognised worldwide, while also reflecting the continuity of the Celtic community in Wales".

His design, for the Olympic Salute to Folk Art competition, will be made into an 8ft sculpture to be displayed with other examples from around the world near the Olympic stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, for this year's Games. Mr Anderson, of Dyfed, beat more than 300 other entries.

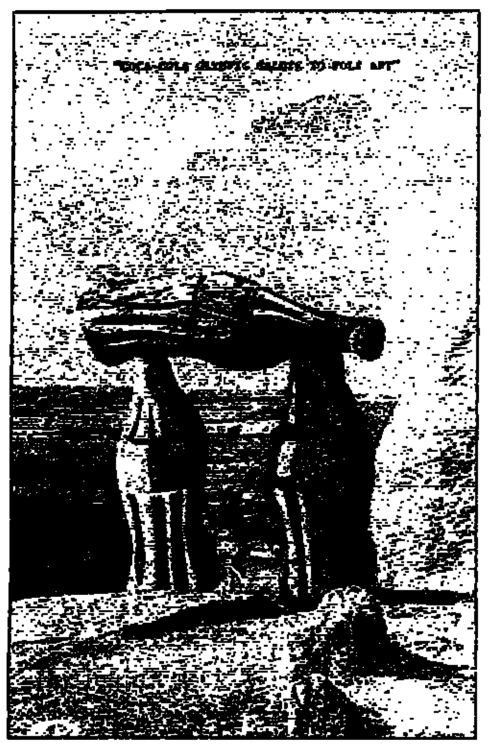
The competition rules stated that work had to be "created, decorated or painted with local materials, using traditional techniques and featuring images that are indigenous to or symbolic of your community". Foreseeing that fashioning the piece from stone would be both impractical and expensive, Mr Anderson says that it will be made from polystyrene and finished to look like stone.

Before turning to sculpture, Anderson was involved in puppet animation, working on children's television shows such as *Fireman Sam* and *Joshua Jones*. He is now taking a part-time course in computer-aided design which he can use to formulate sculptures.

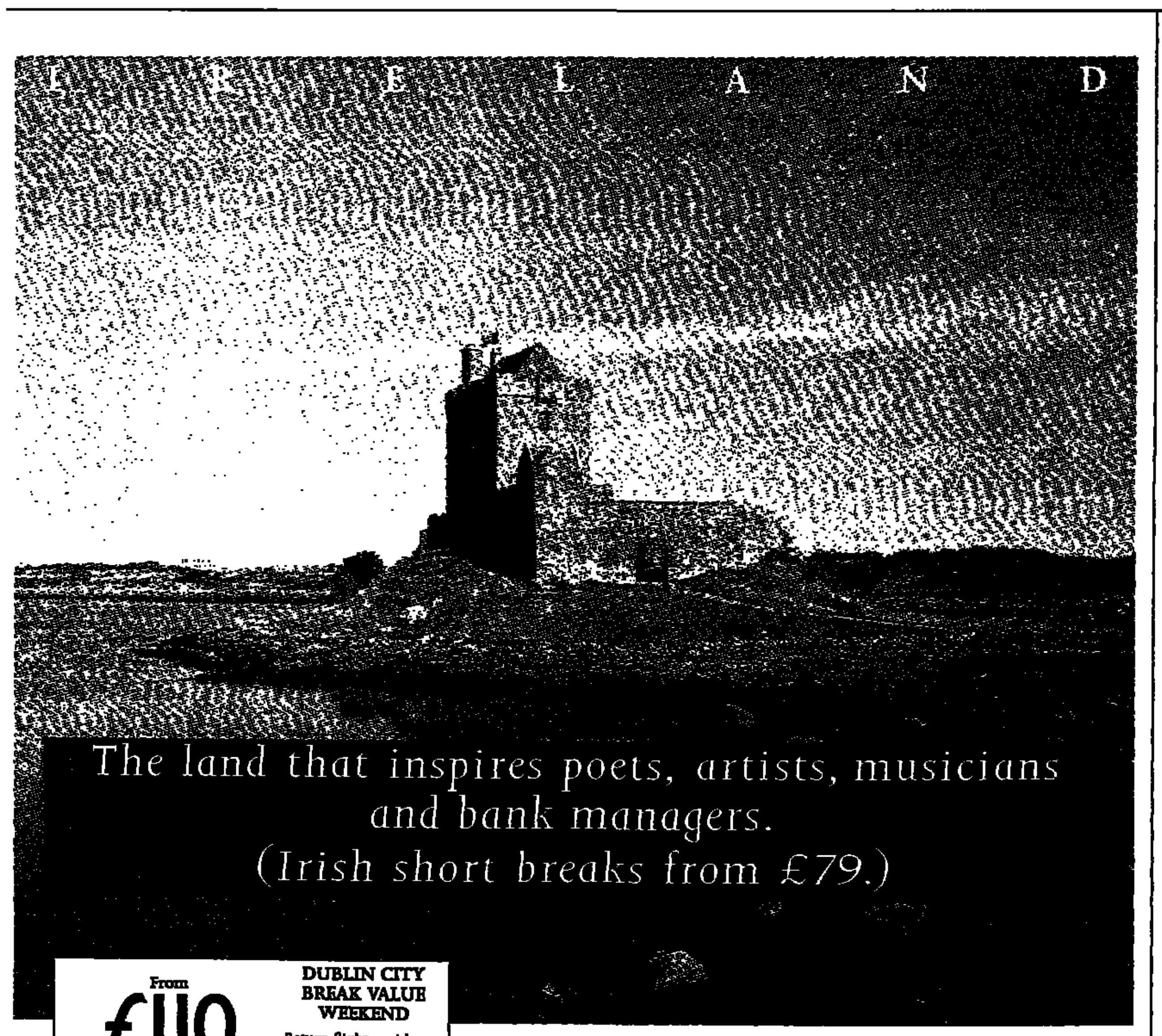
"I'm going through my hardware phase at the moment," he says. "Most of my pieces are made from nails and bits of wood — anything that comes to hand." The idea for *Coca-Cola Henge* came to him in a flash of inspiration. However, the design was illustrated using scissors and paste rather than a computer.

Mr Anderson wins £5,000 for his design and a trip to the Olympic Games, and the five runners-up each receive £1,000. They are Maria Grant, 21, of Aberdeen, whose design was a granite bottle; Giles Mitchell, 14, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, whose *Cathedrals and Cottages* used stained glass, grass and stones; Emma Jackson, 17, of Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, whose *Ship in a Bottle* is self-explanatory; Peter Faulkner, 42, of Morley, Yorkshire, who used the bottle's shape to form a teapot; and Mimi Rashelshine, 28, of Richmond, Surrey, whose bottle showed images of Britain such as red phone boxes and buses.

The judges were: David Driver, the design editor of *The Times*; Stephen Bayley, the design commentator; Gavin Darby, president of Coca-Cola Northwest Europe, and Simon Clegg, deputy general secretary of the British Olympic Association.



The winning entry: *Coca-Cola Henge*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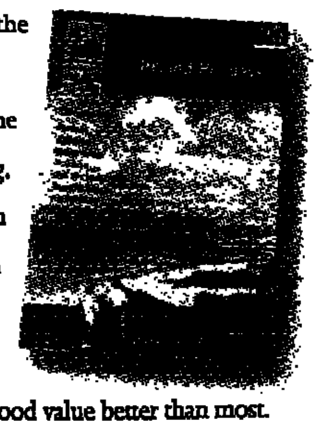

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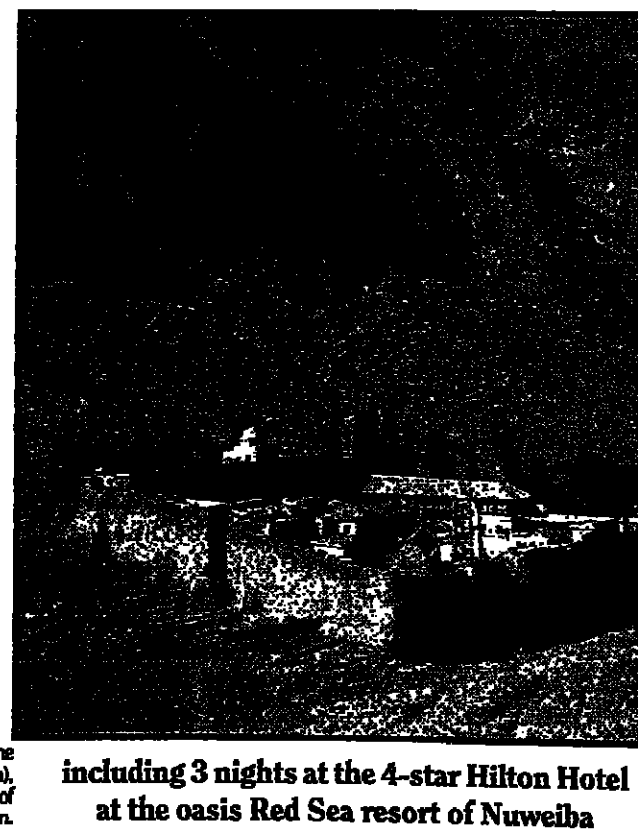

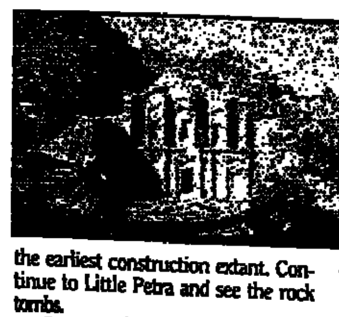

A Visit to the
Monastery of St. Catherine
and the Rose Red
City of Petra

including 3 nights at the 4-star Hilton Hotel at the oasis Red Sea resort of Nuweiba
7 nights from £620.00

The recent opening of the 4-star Hilton Hotel in Nuweiba now makes it possible to combine the fascinating sites of St Catherine's Monastery, and further exploration of Sinai, with the 'rose red' city of Petra. The journey is further made possible by our direct flight from London Gatwick to Ovda and the regular ferry services to Nuweiba.

Our journey commences with a three night stay on Sinai's Red Sea coast at the Coral Hilton Hotel at Nuweiba. From here we pay a visit to both St Catherine's Monastery and the Coloured Canyon with time for relaxation before taking the ferry service to Aqaba and onwards to Petra for four nights.

Besides the 4-star Hilton at Nuweiba, accommodation has been reserved at the 4-star Forum Hotel in Petra. The journey concludes with a drive across the newly-opened border to Ovda for the return flight to London Gatwick.

The Monastery of St Catherine has attracted pilgrims since AD 337 when the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, ordered the building of a sanctuary around the site of the Burning Bush. Its spectacular setting at the foot of Mt Sinai adds to the solitude and mystery of the site.

Petra was lost to the world after a change in well established trading routes but was re-discovered by the famous Swiss explorer Burckhardt in 1812. Since then, the area, 'half as old as time', has been a magnet for generations of travellers wishing to see and experience a truly unique city.

Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London Gatwick airport with Air 2000 direct to Ovda on Airbus 310 taking about 5 hours. Drive to the Coral Hilton Hotel for a three-night stay.

Day 2 Today make a full day excursion to Mt Sinai and the Monastery of St Catherine. The monastery and the area have changed little since it was built on the site where Moses encountered the Burning Bush. At the monastery see the fortress, the church of the Emperor Justinian (the main church), the Well of Moses and the Gallery of Icons. Also see the delightful garden.

Day 3 In the morning there will be an excursion through the spectacular Sinai scenery to see the Coloured Canyon and other sights on the way. Remainder of the day at leisure in Nuweiba.

Day 4 Travel by ferry to Aqaba and drive north to Petra, stronghold of the Nabataeans from the 3rd century BC until its conquest by Rome in 106 AD. Stay four nights in the 4-star Forum Hotel.

Day 5 Walk through the siq gorge - the narrow twisting canyon which is the entrance to the city - and emerge at the impressive looking Treasury (el-Khasne). Climb the sacrificial High Place of the Prophets of Dushara. Also see the Theatre, the Roman Way, the monumental Arch, the Temple, and the Royal Tombs.

Day 6 Return through the siq and climb to the Monastery (el-Deir), Petra's largest monument. In the distance are Aaron's Tomb on Mount Hor, and Wadi Petra. Late afternoon optional excursion to Beida. The ruins of the Neolithic village date from 7,000 BC and are said to be the earliest construction extant. Continue to Little Petra and see the rock tombs.

Day 7 A further day of visiting the sites or optional visits to Wadi Rum, with its dramatic moonscape scenery, or Amman and the well-preserved Roman city of Jerash.

Day 8 Cross over the newly opened border to Ovda for the return flight to London Catwick arriving in the late evening.

The Nuweiba Coral Hilton Resort

Set on a 7 kms sandy beach on the Red Sea, the hotel is an ideal centre from which to visit the spectacular sights of the Sinai. All 200 rooms are air-conditioned with private bath and shower while the public facilities include a choice of restaurants, bars, shops, evening entertainment, swimming pool and a wide variety of leisure and sports facilities.

The Forum Inter-Continental Hotel, Petra

The 4-star Forum Hotel is situated close to Petra. The 149 guest rooms each has private facilities, air-conditioning, TV, radio and mini-bar. The hotel's facilities include two restaurants, lounge, terrace/pool bar, swimming pool, sauna and shops.

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Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 .... £620.00
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Mar 3, 10, 17 .... £695.00
Mar 24 .... £750.00
Mar 31 .... £695.00

Single supplement £165.00

Price includes: return flights, 7 nights' accommodation, half board Petra, room only Nuweiba, excursions as shown, transfers and transportation, local representative/guides. Not included: travel insurance, visa procurement, airport taxes, entrance fees, tipping.

All prices are subject to change.

Please note: itineraries may be operated in a different sequential order to that shown to avoid overcrowding at particular sites.

Optional Visits
Full day tour to Amman and Jerash with lunch £59.00.
Half day tour to Wadi Rum with lunch £39.00.
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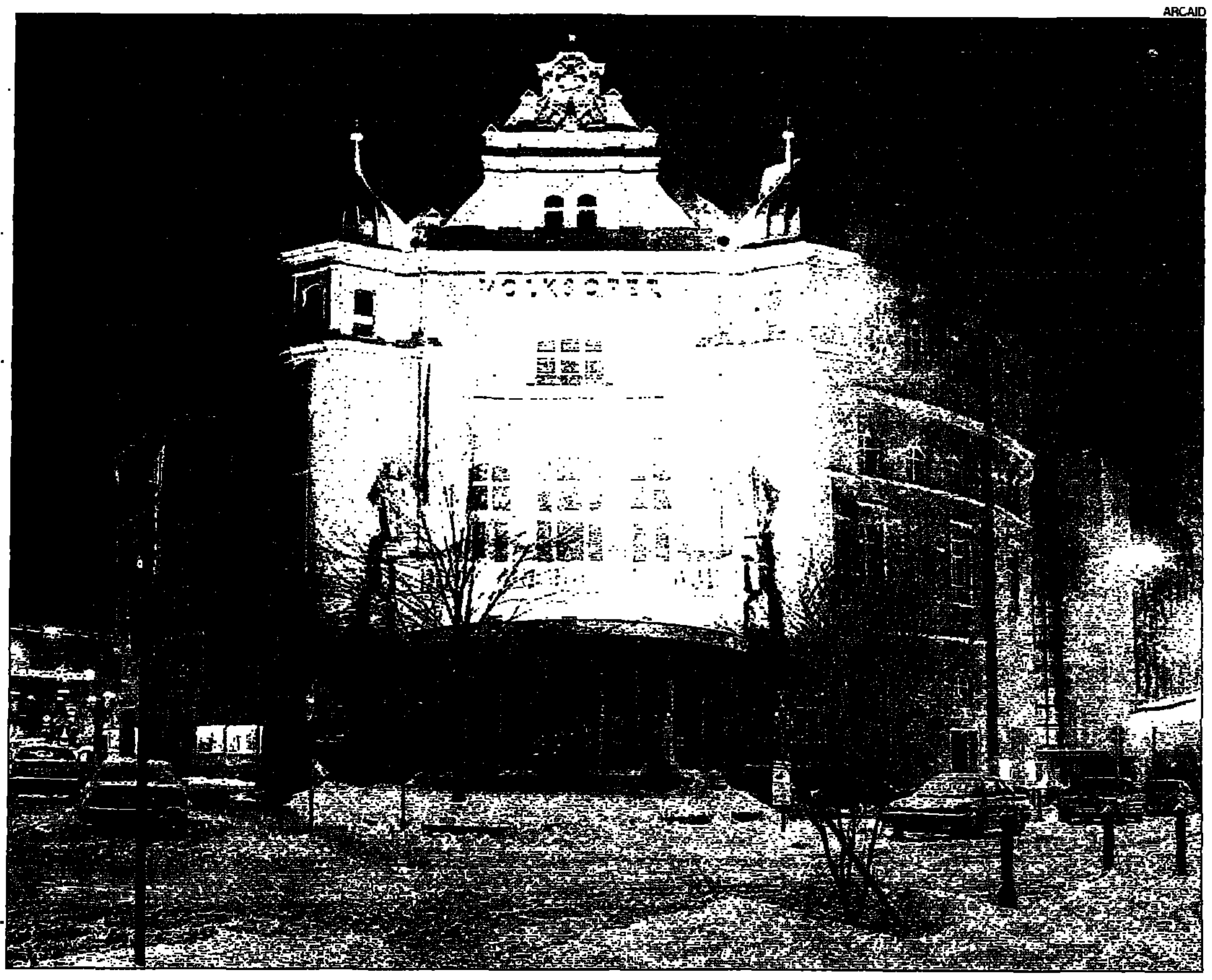
مكبرة من الأصل

CITY BREAKS: Style, charm and a little light music in Vienna; and a walking tour of bustling Lisbon

A night or two at the opera


ARCAID

The Volksoper: optimistically planned to be at the heart of the Austro-Hungarian empire

I went to Vienna in search of melody. When it comes to musical theatre, we British are hopelessly confined. All we ask is a quick round of Andrew Lloyd Webber topped up by Gilbert and Sullivan and an occasional Broadway revival. The rich continental tradition of operetta is relegated to tatty productions of *Die Fledermaus* and other holiday specials such as the recent reworking of Offenbach's *La belle Hélène* which, for some mysterious reason, has become *La belle Vivette*.

Forgotten are the Viennese masters of light musical entertainment such as Johann Strauss, Franz Lehar and Emmerich Kalman, who created theatrical experiences of lasting appeal that would still pack the Coliseum or Sadlers Wells if any producer had the wit to see the potential.

Until that happy day, a weekend break in Vienna with visits to the Wiener Volksoper answers the immediate problem — with the bonus of enjoying the style and charm of this inspiring city.

A good time to go to Vienna for operetta and other delights is around Easter when the avenues bloom in the spring sunshine.

There are so many treasures within easy walking distance of each other but I will stay faithful to the age of operetta and suggest a tour of the best of Jugendstil or Art Nouveau, the turn-of-the-century culture clash that brought artists such as Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele and architects like Otto Wagner to prominence.

Vienna was then a city noted for its rigid class structure and deference to Hapsburg traditions. Yet it was also a city of intellectual ferment where every street café, aloud with argument, was a potential challenge to authority. When the Secession Pavilion (on Friedrichstrasse) was erected for exhibitions of avant-garde art, it was deliberately sited just across from the Academy of Fine Arts, the temple of artistic convention. Its members despised the Secession Pavilion, calling it the "golden cabbage", a reference to the globe that tops this white, cube-like building. But it survived as a showcase for Klimt and his friends and, today, houses Klimt's homage to Beethoven's 9th, a delicate and graceful frieze which proclaims art as the source of true happiness.

More of Klimt's work can be seen at the Belvedere, a former royal palace with a panoramic view of the city, the Museum of Modern Art and the Kunsthistorisches Museum on the Ringstrasse, where the great collections of art built up by the Hapsburg monarchs are on permanent display.

Art Nouveau crops up all over Vienna — the distinctive designs seen in cafés, shops and public buildings but most obviously in the eye-catching architecture of Otto Wagner, Joseph Maria Olbrich and Adolf Loos. One example: enjoy the Wagner apartment buildings across from the Naschmarkt. Designed just before the turn of the century, the facades are variously decorated with flowered murals and gilded balconies.

Like the operettas that grace the Volksoper, the Wagner buildings are a celebration of art as fun. Forget Vienna's reputation for conservatism. The pleasure of living is always close to the surface.

In the spirit of the Viennese, I spent four evenings and one afternoon at the Volksoper to enjoy Lehar (*The Merry Widow* and *Land of Smiles*), Kalman (*Countess Maritza*), Strauss (*A Night in Venice*) and Benatzky (*White Horse Inn*). This last was a late arrival on the operetta scene overlapping with the rise of the Broadway musical. For its London opening, in 1931, the Coliseum was transformed into a Tyrolean village with three orchestras and a cast of 160 not to mention horses, dogs and goats. They gave their all for a record-breaking 651 performances.

The producer, Oswald Stoll, demanded and got a water tank built above the stage to create a real dampener for the storm scene. The latest Volksoper production was more modest, but no worse for that. If *White Horse Inn* was a bit of a letdown it was because the director had updated the action, pitching it somewhere around the 1950s, which made nonsense of a storyline featuring the Emperor Franz Joseph as a pivotal character.

The Volksoper, which shares its performers with the Staatsoper where they put on the serious stuff, was more at home with Strauss, Lehar and Kalman, whose work was played in period and with enormous verve. Pace is vital to operetta. There must be no chance for the audience to reflect on the flimsiness of the plot, which invariably has hero and heroine falling in love, out of love and in love again.

An exception is *Land of Smiles*, written by Lehar (or, rather, adapted from an existing work) to meet the enduring Western fascination for the Orient. The heroine goes to China to marry her true love only to find that the Eastern tendency towards polygamy is too much for a well-bred Viennese girl. The sad ending is anticipated in the big number *You Are My Heart's Delight*.

We enter familiar operetta territory with *A Night in Venice* and *Countess Maritza* with their Viennese waltzes and vigorous dance routines. Then there is the *Merry Widow*, justly the most famous of all operettas, performed at the Volksoper as nowhere else. The exuberance on stage carries over to the audience, who can hardly wait to clap along with the *Can Can*. What singers and dancers! They look good too. These are performers who fulfil the romantic ideal, not warbling heavyweights.

The Volksoper is some way from the centre of town, which in compact Vienna means no more than two or three tram stops from the big hotels. But it is curious that the theatre, a turn-of-the-century functional structure, should have been built away from the magnificent Staatsoper and other great cultural institutions on the Ringstrasse. Could it be that the Viennese were a little embarrassed by their fondness for operetta, not quite bringing themselves to accept that they were enjoying true art? Not a bit of it. The Volksoper was opened when Vienna was the heart of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a growing city that was straining to match imperial grandeur. The theatre was deliberately placed at a point where the city centre was forecast to be 20 years ahead. Such optimism proved ill-founded. The First World War brought the Hapsburg empire crashing down and with it any Viennese pretension to be the leading city of Europe.

Today, the Volksoper offers traditional and contemporary musical treats — from *Die Zauberföte*, Mozart's forerunner for operetta, to *My Fair Lady* and *Kiss Me Kate*. The connecting thread, says deputy director Robert Herzl, is that they are all "fairy tales for adults". The Viennese turn up in strength for their shot of musical escapism, returning again and again for their favourite shows. The clubby atmosphere — with attendants who smile and chat as they show you to your seat, extends to overseas visitors. The passion for operetta knows no linguistic boundaries

The season runs from September to the last day of June. The operettas I saw remain in the repertoire with the exception of *White Horse Inn*, which came off in December. A new production, more faithful to the original, is promised for two years hence.

BARRY TURNER

Fact file

☐ Barry Turner was a guest of Travelscene (0181-427 4445). He stayed at the five-star Hotel Vienna Plaza. Two-night breaks start from £389 per person based on two sharing and includes return flights with Austrian Airlines from Heathrow, transfer on arrival and accommodation with buffet breakfast.

☐ The author was a guest of the Austrian Tourist Board at the 4-star Hotel am Stephansplatz (00 43 1 53 4050). B&B in a double room costs from £50 to £70 per person per night.

☐ Information and tickets for the Volksoper (00 43 514 44/2960).

☐ Austrian National Tourist Office 0171-629 0461.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

QUELLIO

(a) A Spanish ruff. An adaptation of the Spanish *cuello* a neck or collar. Latin *collum* a neck. "Our rich mockado doublet, with our cut cloth-of-gold sleeves, and our quellio."

ROTIFERA

(c) Tiny animals. A class of minute (usually microscopic) animalcules, having rotatory organs which are used in swimming. From the Latin for carrying wheels. "The Rotifers are minute mostly microscopic creatures which inhabit almost all our ponds and streams.'

RAMILLIE

(b) Applied to a wig having a long plait behind tied with a bow at top and bottom. Also a method of cocking the hat. A toponym from *Ramillies* in Belgium, the scene of Marlborough's victory in 1706. Laurence Sterne, *Tristam Shandy* 1767: "Putting my uncle Toby's great ramillie wig into pipes."

PREGNADA

(a) A variety of lemon. From the Spanish *preñada* big with child. "There are [in Tenerife] oranges and lemons, especially the pregnadas, which have small ones in their bellies, from whence they are so denominated."

Tarts make you linger longer

Expos come and go. By their nature they are a mixed blessing: Seville's (in 1992) bequeathed new roads, a bridge and a post-modern railway station to the city. These have left the old city, for all its charm, feeling like a theme park. Now Lisbon is gearing up for an Expo in 1998.

Lisbon is a fragile flower. The old city centre, architecturally rich, has suffered from decades of decay. Much of the classic tilework is scarred, facades have been defaced by jutting air-conditioners and ugly signs, and tenement washing hangs above and along great avenues. Worst of all, cars are parked nose-to-tail along the pavements, making walking hazardous in some areas.

The 50-year-old wooden streetcars get locked in furious combat on the corners of steep hills with taxis and selfish parkers. Yet Lisbon is, gloriously, a walker's city.

A good place to start is where the city meets the narrow neck of the River Tagus, at the Praca do Comercio, once considered one of the loveliest squares in Europe. Here you feel transported into Graham Greene's *Our Man in Havana* — I half expected to see shadowy uniformed figures peering out of dark windows. From the square, walk north through the lavish marble-flanked arch to the Rua Augusta, where the Portuguese stop frequently for a splash of coffee in small oases reminiscent of Europe in the 1950s. For the most intimate restaurants and bars, take a left to the Rua dos Sapateiros, just before it meets another square, the Rossio. A great aperitif, available in any of the bars, is white port — dry, yet deliciously fruity. On a grander scale, try one of the old belle époque restaurants serving fresh fish any way you want it — baked, grilled, poached, boiled or fried.

The Rossio is the heart of Lisbon, a meeting place bustling with street vendors, lottery-ticket sellers, cafés, main Metro station, bus stops, the central taxi rank and bygone-era railway station. In the Middle Ages, the Rossio was used for bullfights, carnivals and rallies as well as the burning of heretics during the Inquisition. From the Rossio, stroll north in the shade of the trees of the wide Avenida da Liberdada and pause at the Tivoli kiosk, last colourful survivor of several that once adorned the Avenida. (The adjacent old Tivoli cinema is now, sadly, a conference centre.) The Avenida is liberally dotted with restaurants, where it is easy to spot the tourists because they are the only ones sitting down — the Portuguese love to eat at the counter.

High rise: the Santa Justa lift

It was the Portuguese who opened the sea route between Europe and India via the Cape of Good Hope, introducing tangy Indian spices to Portuguese cuisine. And they are still there. My one disappointment was that the once ubiquitous and delicious sardine is now considered a poor person's food.

The smartest shopping is to be had on the Rua Garrett, and to reach it the most adventurous way is to take the creaking, epic lift, the Elevador Carmo, from the Rua do Carmo. In the Rua Garrett, take time out for coffee or afternoon tea and cake in the Café A Brasileira (The Brazilian Woman), once the haunt of artists and writers. Choose from a tempting array of fruit tarts, custard tarts, cream and chocolate cake. Linger awhile, as the Portuguese do.

Finally, walk back down to the Tagus waterfront via the Rua Serpa Pinto, a steep street devoted to antiques and antiquarian bookshops (including, since this was a great centre of navigation, wonderful antique map shops).

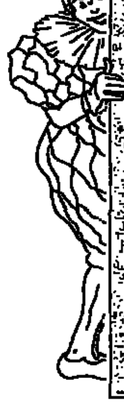
I spent a few days in one of the most comfortable, friendly and well-run hotels I have ever stayed in: Hotel da Lapa, high up in the Lapa district overlooking the harbour. Originally built in the 19th century as a private stately home; it has been tastefully restored as a hotel. In such tranquillity you can pamper yourself, breakfasting serenely in your room or on the balcony while, below, the river hums with ferries and boats of all sizes. You can take a dip in the outdoor pool even in early November.

This peaceful resting place is, in fact, in the middle of embassy territory, where ornately elegant buildings with their private sub-tropical gardens shelter diplomats, their families and staff from inquisitive eyes. These are beautiful buildings, some of which are still adorned with traditional blue, white and yellow tiles.

The imminent Expo is the last of the 20th century and is dedicated to preserving the oceans: 1998 is also the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea route to India. All this will fuel a transformation of the old docks. A huge site of some 60 hectares extending for five kilometres along the north bank of the river Tagus will modernise and change the face of Lisbon for ever. So catch it while you can.

MIMI IRVING

- *The author flew to Lisbon on TAP Air Portugal (0171-630 0900). The standard fare is £182 return until June.*
- *She stayed at the Hotel da Lapa, 4 Rua Pau da Bandeira, Lisbon (00 351 395-0005, fax 395-0665). Tariff: 49,000 escudos (£214) weekdays; special weekend rate of 38,000 escudos per day (£260) for a suite with balcony overlooking gardens and River Tagus. An excellent dinner including wine cost £62 for two.*
- *Less expensive hotels recommended by Birnbaum's Portugal, a reliable American guide, are the Tivoli, Avenue du Liberdade (00 351 356-1300) and the Carlton at 56 Avenue Conde Valbom (00 351 795-1157).*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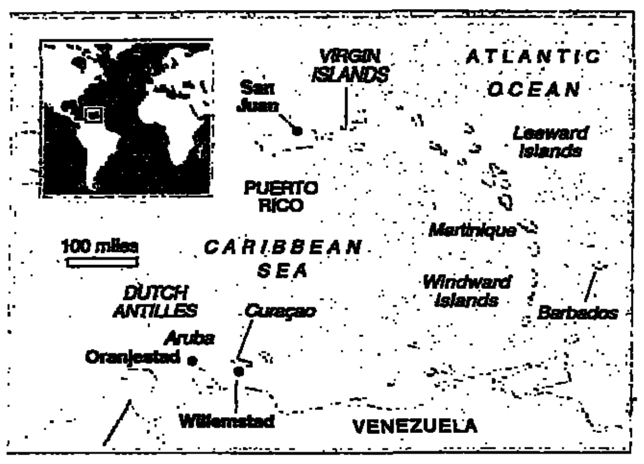
CRUISING: Life on a liner plying the sun-kissed Caribbean islands is never short of temptation …

Belly-flops, bingo and big dinners



The sheer scale of the *MS Seaward*, one of five ships in the Norwegian Cruise Line, surprised me. I had failed to follow the explosive development of the cruise industry, assuming that such holidays had remained exclusive in tone and excessive in price.

My previous experience had been limited to an upmarket cruise, with about 150 passengers, around the Greek islands many years back. This week in the Caribbean was to be very different.

It started with a flight of seven and a half hours from Gatwick to San Juan, capital of Puerto Rico. After a short transfer to the port and a good deal of form-filling, we were assigned our cabins (comfortable if slightly plasticky), and what was to prove a memorable week began.

Only when emerging on to one of the upper four of the *Seaward*'s ten decks did its vast size become apparent: 700ft long, with four and a half laps of the promenade deck equalling one mile. One of my few fears, that our fellow travellers would be predominantly elderly, was soon banished. There were about 1,350 of them (200 short of maximum capacity), mainly American, plus a crew of 630 from 35 nationalities.

The average age seemed to be around 35, with a good number of honeymooning or recently married couples and a generous sprinkling of youngish, single people, more female than male.

My encounters suggested that far more of those aboard were employed in trade than in the professions: I did not meet one lawyer.

On the dot of 10pm, the ship got under way. By then the first test had been passed: dinner. Food bulks large on cruises. On the *Seaward* it was delicious, with a choice of five or six main dishes — produced swiftly, and hot, to several hundred places at each sitting in the two main dining rooms. Two of seven evenings were designated as formal, though dinner jackets were worn only by a few.

A third, smaller and rather chic restaurant was understatedly called the Bistro. Breakfast and lunch were available in the main restaurants, but we generally took them in a self-service area on the swimming pool (ninth) deck, or from a pasta and salad display by the pool. In addition, quiche, sandwiches and cakes were available at teatime, there was an ice-cream stall and a midnight buffet by the two smallish pools, and room service was available 24 hours a day. All food was included in the price, a serious temptation to the greedy — of whom, to judge by the incidence of obesity and overloaded plates, there were more than a few. Drinks were extra and not cheap, especially the wine.

Life on board offered a gamut of experiences, from the inspiring to the naff. The greatest joy was to lean on the ship's rail caressed by a warm breeze, rum punch in hand, chatting to friends or new acquaintances as the setting sun transformed the vast sky into a Turneresque drama of pinks, dark blues and reds, followed by the rise of a moon that turned the water silver.

By day, flying fish could be seen. At night, strange Caribbean seagulls fluttered and gibbered bat-like in the ship's lights.

At the more banal, man-made end of the spectrum, there was a huge range of light entertainment, from gambling and dozens of fruit machines in the casino, through bingo, two dance groups, several musical shows, such as a shortened version of *Grease*, and a stand-up comedian.

The pool deck was the scene not just of serious morning aerobics but plenty of undemanding fun. Two sample intellect-sapping competitions in the pool: who could do the biggest and reddest belly-flop, and which of a male and female competitor could stuff more ping-pong balls down their bikini/trunks.

The cruise consisted of two full days at sea, two in the Dutch Antilles, and two in the British and American Virgin Islands, for which various excursions were available.

The Dutch islands of Aruba and Curaçao seemed an odd choice, because both are flat and scenically dull, unless you happen to be excited by oil refineries, of which Oranjestad, Aruba's main port, had a fine example. But we found decent beaches on both: congenital shoppers enjoyed the duty free shops, and Curaçao's port city, Willemstad, is pretty in mock-Dutch style.

The *Seaward*'s alternative (or additional back-to-back) route offers what is arguably a stronger choice of islands, including Barbados and Martinique, but with only one full day at sea.

The Virgin Islands, common to both itineraries and badly battered by a hurricane soon after our visit, are not just hilly, green and scenic, but offer breathtaking views from their higher points of beach-lined bays and neighbouring islands and islets set in a turquoise sea: not for nothing is this area a Mecca for small sailing boats.

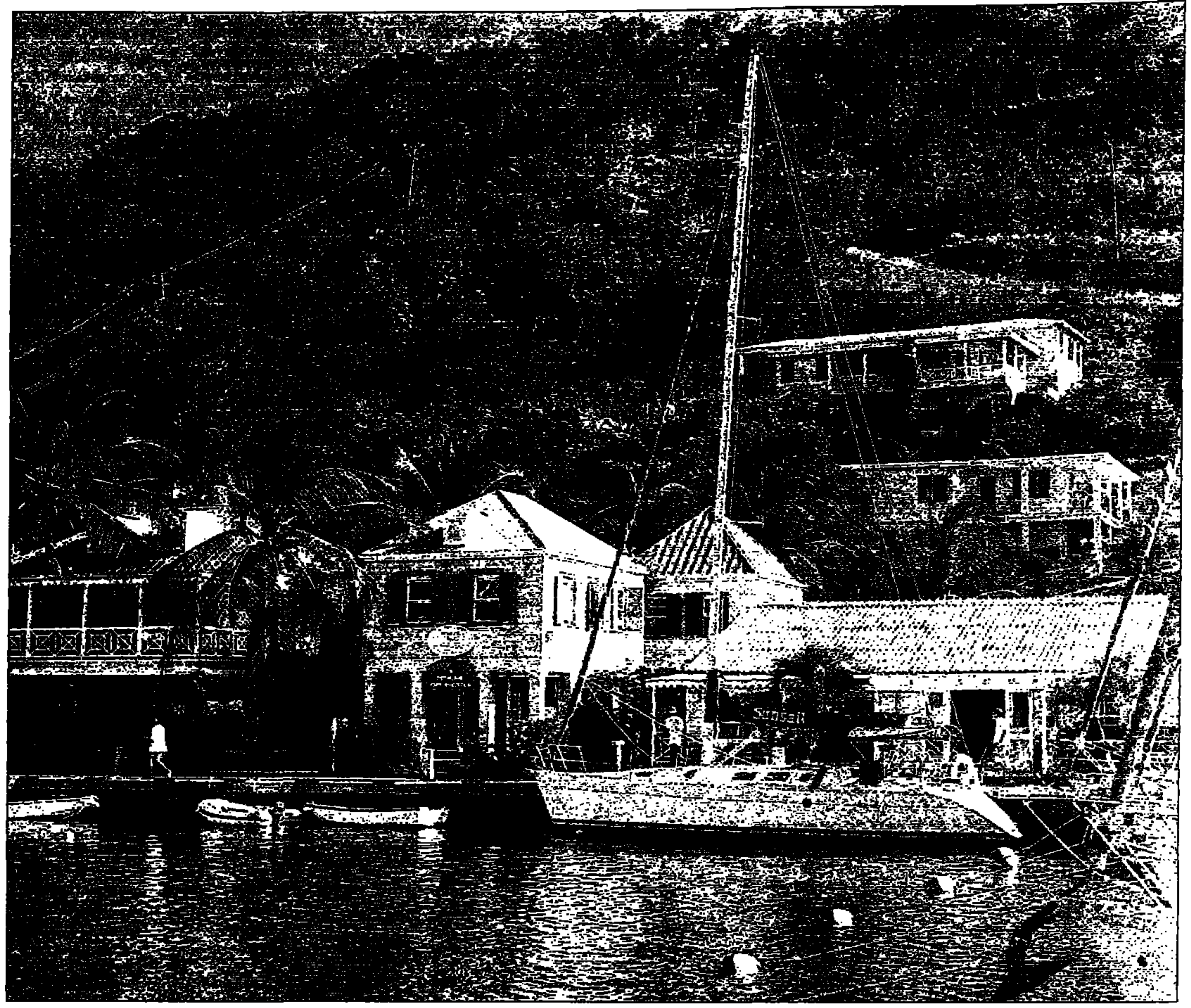
The timetable offers excursions, at reasonable extra cost, and the chance of a few hours on a beach.

There lies the main frustration of cruising: being at sea is an unalloyed pleasure, but stopovers offer a somewhat tantalising glimpse of beaches and views that need to be savoured at greater length.

That aside, my week on the *Seaward* was relaxing, restorative and entertaining. It was a wrench to disembark at San Juan, though a few hours topping up the tan by the pool at the Condado Plaza Hotel before our return flight helped to ease the pain.

ROGER BERTHOUD

WORLD PICTURES



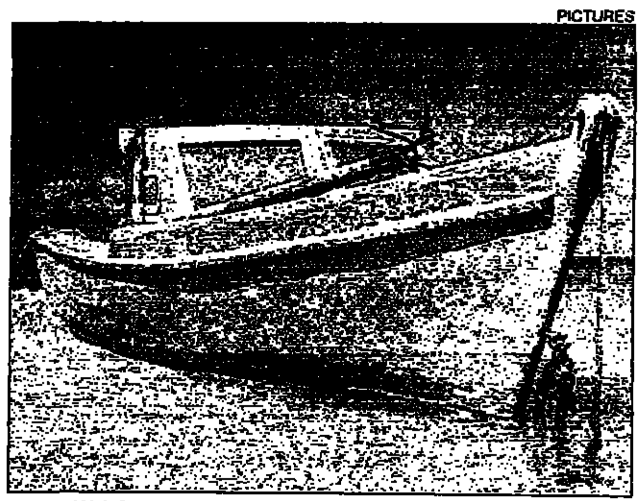
A typical small port in the Virgin Islands — colourful wooden houses and boats bobbing in the harbour against a backdrop of verdant hillsides

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of of Norwegian Cruise Line (0800 181560 and 0171-408 0046).

☐ An eight-night inclusive package from Gatwick costs from £1,355 per person. The back-to-back 15-night option starts at £1,885. Prices include all meals on board, return flights, airport-ship transfers and a day room at the Condado Plaza Hotel in San Juan.

PICTURES



Still life awaiting an artist on the beach at Aruba

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... and, while the Indian Ocean islands have their disappointments, all is swell on a luxury voyage to Athens

What's another word for exotic?

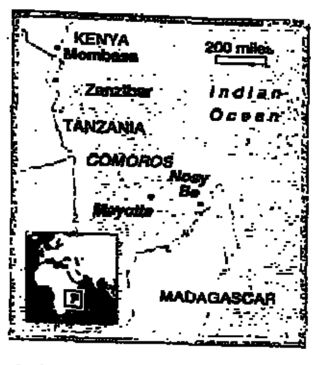
Everything you read or hear about Zanzibar describes it as exotic but, as far as I could see, the most exotic thing about the island was its name. Admittedly, ports in any country are not the best vantage point, but we moved from the crowded, dirty docks into crowded, dirty streets lined with the peeling façades of neglected buildings. The malodorous market was filled with people who made no effort to hide their hostility.

Our official guide took us to a church, a spice shop and a spice farm but avoided the old slave market on the grounds that it was too small to accommodate our party. We sneaked back later and it turned out to be the most memorable part of the trip. There were two rooms, one for women and children and the other for men, but the low ceilings made it impossible to stand upright. It felt cramped with four of us in there, yet these rooms once held 200 people for up to two days while they waited to be sold and shipped abroad. By the mid-19th century the island had an annual turnover of 50,000 slaves.

The beaches of the east coast are reputedly beautiful but, because we had no time to see them, it was a relief to scuttle back for a large gin and tonic on the *MS Royal Star*, which had brought us to Zanzibar during a week-long cruise in the Indian Ocean.

Our trip had begun at Mombasa, Kenya, with three days at the Flamingo Beach Hotel. The elegant lobby looked promising after a long flight but the rooms were a disappointment, with rock-hard beds, no mini-bar and no soap.

The grounds, however, were beautiful, with glorious shrubs and massive waterfalls into the swimming pool. A family of monkeys came down from the trees to share the fruit which decorated my tropical cocktail. After that I carried a huge bag of peanuts at all times and they appeared at my French doors twice a day holding out their disconcertingly human-like paws. It's best to keep the doors locked, however — they stole jewellery and brightly coloured bikinis from some rooms. The doctor on the *Royal Star* told me that monkey bites were one of the most common injuries suffered by tourists and were always the result of people trying to snatch something back.



It would have been nice to take a break from sunbathing for a trip into Mombasa but crime is so bad these days that visitors are advised to remove jewellery and watches before any outing. We stayed put. If you want a break from hotel fare, however, I can recommend Claudio's Italian restaurant, a £5 taxi drive away.

On the fourth day it was down to the port and all aboard. The crew — Filipino, German and Greek — were charming, and the captain, who I expected to look like the man on the Players cigarette packet, turned out to be young and dashing.

Cruise people are a jolly bunch — well-travelled, affluent and hedonistic. Most seemed to have bulging wallets and svelte waistlines but, as I have a bulging waistline and a svelte wallet, it was a shock to discover that I had put on 6lb and my bar bill for the week was £120.

The fourth day brought us to Mayotte in the Comoros, a pretty, if dull island. The young girls' faces were painted in beautiful designs in white paste — proof that they did not have to work in the fields. The island has spectacular views but little else to recommend it.

Our next port of call, Nosy Be (pronounced Bay), one of the islands of Madagascar, was much better. The people in the capital, Hell Ville, seemed pleased to see us and there were lovely souvenirs to buy, embroidered linen and superb marquetry boxes. The island's biggest export is ylang-ylang, a plant which is used as a basis for perfume.

Our last stop was the best. Shungu Mbili was an island entirely without people, except us. Passengers lurked under parasols or snorkelled while the ship's crew set up a barbecue beneath the trees.

The problem with the Indian Ocean is that it *sounds* more exotic than it is. The islands we saw were so similar that they merged into an image of endless palm trees and markets. The *Royal Star*, however, has much to recommend it. Next time, I shall refuse to get off.

MARY GOLD

STILL PICTURES

Island cruise fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Voyages Jules Verne, 21, Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG (0171-616 1000, fax 0171-723 8629).

☐ A 16-day trip to Mombasa, Kenya, with seven nights aboard the *MS Royal Star* and seven nights' full-board accommodation at the Flamingo Beach Hotel, costs from £1,650 per person, including flights. A supplement of £195 is payable for an upper-deck cabin. There are four departures a year from Gatwick.

Sailing in a sea of bubbly

RAY ROBERTS/IMPACT

Though everything you need is on board the liner, a shore excursion could take you to Florence with its wealth of art

A gleaming, polished deck glinting under the hot Mediterranean sun. As I sink back into a blue-and-white wooden deck recliner, a waiter appears: "A glass of champagne, sir? Will you take it here or shall I bring it to you in the pool?"

We are aboard the *Royal Viking Sun*, one of the world's most luxurious cruise liners, on a voyage from Barcelona to Athens. My fellow passengers are mostly American, average age 72, according to Robert, our young English waiter, who is working his passage to Sydney. Cruising is a way of life for most of these people and the only way to see the world. It is Florence, Rome and Pompeii this week, and next week a brisk tour of thousand years of ancient Greek and Turkish civilisation in three days.

Not that cruising is exclusively a pastime for the retired. Cunard, which owns the *Royal Viking Sun*, is keen to attract a new, younger market. It also believes that there is a growing British market to be tapped and hates the idea that cruising is almost an exclusively American activity. And, yes, there were Britons on board: my dinner table included a Relate (marriage guidance) counsellor and a churchman from Oxfordshire. None of us seemed to mind that everything on board is priced in dollars and the menu offers such un-British delights as "buckwheat blinis".

Every need is catered for, and such is the service that some people do not even bother to go ashore at ports of call. The food (included in the price) is superb, the wine list (not included) is extensive; bars are open day and night; a mini-Vegas of a casino mops up all your loose change; a cinema shows the latest films; and nightly live entertainment is based on the American tradition (a performer only has to launch into *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* and there is scarcely a dry eye on board).

There are about 450 crew to 600 passengers, and the Norwegian captain, Ola Harsheim, is a heroic figure to both. Many passsengers — and about 70 per cent are "repeat business" — will ask whether Captain Harsheim is sailing before they book.

On the first day at sea, he hosts a show in the ship's theatre at which he introduces his senior officers and tells a little story about each as they run on to the stage from the wings to a big-band accompaniment, like participants in a television game show.

The captain throws regular cocktail parties in his quarters at which guests are treated to his own brand of Norwegian humour. This consists largely of Irish-type jokes with Swedes as the butt. "How do you spot a Swede in a crowd of Norwegians? He is the only one who looks up when someone shouts 'there's a dead bird'."

The ship is lavishly decorated, the recent refit having given the decor a 1970s feel, though some might hanker after the more traditional brass and mahogany.

The shore excursions are organised with military precision. Present yourself on the quayside at 9am and you will be escorted around the Colosseum, the Acropolis, the Uffizi or Ephesus.

The state cabins are sumptuous. I counted enough leather seating for 13 in mine. It is often hard to remember that one is on board a ship at all. The entire creation resembles nothing so much as a floating Savoy hotel, except that the view out of the window is different every morning. "Is that the Bay of Naples? I don't remember that being there last night."

If something of the spirit of adventure is lacking, it is more than made up for by the pleasures of being pampered. It is sheer hedonistic pleasure with no hassle, no pressures, no stress.

On the last night on board, Jacqueline and Barbara, two widows from Houston, Texas, asked where I was planning to go on my next trip. I told them I had long had a dream to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. "What do you want to do that for?", they asked, genuinely bewildered. "Couldn't you get a helicopter or something to drop you on the top?" That is the true cruising ethos.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Cunard on *Royal Viking Sun* on a cruise from Barcelona to Athens. This year, the ship will cruise from Genoa to Venice, from October 12-26.

☐ Prices on the "Treasures of the Ancients" cruise start from £3,195 and include 14 nights' accommodation, with all meals and entertainment on board, return flights to London and transfers between airport and dock. Port and handling charges, UK Government tax, personal drinks and tipping are not included.

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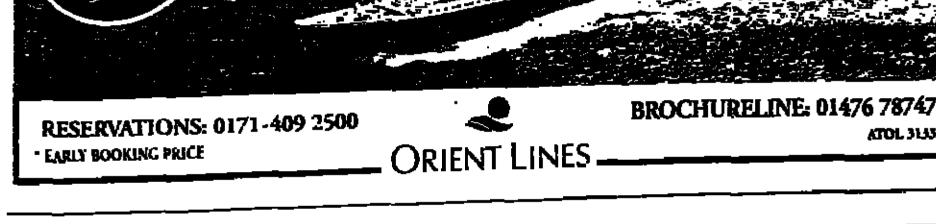

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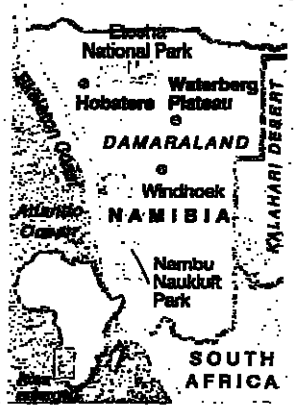
NAMIBIA: Chasing Mad Max and the unicorn is no fantasy on the dry plains of Damaraland

Undisputed kings of the wild frontier



Admittedly it had two horns, but it was still the nearest thing to a unicorn I have ever seen. Catch it in profile and the long, slender horns look like one; startle it and it doesn't scamper but canters, with a long moment of supension between strides; frighten it properly and it drops its withers and gallops.

Oryx: with a Lone Ranger mask, black stockings with white socks on top and a tail like Cher's hairpiece. Oryx: the beast of the desert. Or, if you wish to be pendantic, the semi-desert. But anyway, at home in these gravel plains, these endless seas of cat-litter.

Is this the world's most handsome antelope? Or even quadruped? You can admire its dry-country adaptations: how it can raise its body temperature, dig for tubers, find hidden desert pools, concentrate its urine and even construct hollows and shelters to avoid the midday heat.

Or you can just admire its looks, its sheer presence: monarch of all the cat-litter it surveys. It exudes a sense of fastidious toughness. It was a new animal for me and a new chunk of Africa. I was in Namibia: a dry area called Damaraland, the Kalahari to my right, the Skeleton Coast to my left.

I don't know much about deserts: my natural habitat in Africa is savannah, where your head rings with bird-calls and there are more big mammals than you can seriously believe in. If you are a gourmand for wildlife, then savannah is your place.

The desert is more like nouvelle cuisine. You don't get much, and what you do get takes an awful lot of trouble, so you have to work extra hard to make sure that you appreciate every mouthful, or eyeful. Every oryx is a gem: not for that reason, it is called gemsbok in Afrikaans.

Every springbok is a jewel too. In some places you see them by the thousand: in Damaraland you see one at a time: beautiful, delicate creatures, there to savour. It is an event when you see two or three together.

In this strange and wild place — it is not even a national park but communal land — you are never quite sure what will turn up. There are elephants and lions in the desert.

Oddly enough, this land of gravel and strange sharp hills, each one with the top sliced neatly off, is also a stronghold of black rhino. It used to be a fringe habitat for the species, but rhino have been so heavily poached in their main areas that the desert now holds significant numbers. What was once fringe is now heartland.

These desert rhino are not beasts who can subsist on the bare open plains but Damaraland is slashed with green gullies: green gashes across the brown and desiccated land. These are known delightfully as ephemeral rivers — now you see them, now you don't. Mostly you don't.

It doesn't rain much in Damaraland: say six inches to a foot a year. But it rains farther inland and, after a distant storm, the water will sometimes crash through these gullies leaving a trail of fertility in its wake. One man I met spoke with awe about his local river, which a short time ago had reached the sea — for the first time in 27 years. I walked downstream with him: not walking on water, for it had all gone. Only a puddle or two remained.

In the heart of the desert, then, you find a series of green tunnels. If you wish, you can creep through them. I have often walked through the 8ft-high grass of the savannah and I know the correct name for it: adrenalin grass. You can stumble on top of anything: a herd of buffalo, a pride of lion.

In these tunnels there is always a pleasant farmyard smell: rhino dung. They deposit it in communal heaps, middens, to let each other know who is about. The scent of the midden; the winding tunnel with its blind corners; the surge of adrenalin.

I found furious scrapings where male rhinos had advertised their presence as territorial bosses. Often I saw their tracks: three-toed monsters. At one point, there was 30 yards of tramline. Here, in a frenzy of territoriality, a male had dragged his back legs across the landscape.

I was travelling with Mike Hearn, who works in rhino conservation in Namibia. He knows that there are 120 rhinoceros in Damaraland; he knows each one by name. There is a one-eared beast called van Gogh, but Hearn has an affinity with Mad Max.

The rhinos are comparatively safe here. People are few and there are no strangers. If there were, they would be spotted at once. And the people have a vested interest in rhinos — many work as trackers for conservation. The rhinos are few, widely scattered and hard to find. These may be problems for the rhinos, but they have perversely become conservation advantages.

It is a rich and rewarding place, this semi-desert. To sleep out beneath its starry ceiling is no small matter. And Namibia holds other riches, of a kind found elsewhere in Africa, where there is more water about the place.

And that is a joy, as lions and zebras must be, but it was the desert that stuck in the mind because it was new to me; because it was peculiar; because of the underrated pleasures of agoraphobia.

I didn't actually see rhino, the trip was too short and fleeting. On a longer trip, you are unlikely to miss out. But I never mind not seeing wildlife. It is enough to know that there are 120 rhinos about somewhere — maybe round the next corner. If not rhino, then an oryx or a unicorn. It's all one to me.

SIMON BARNES

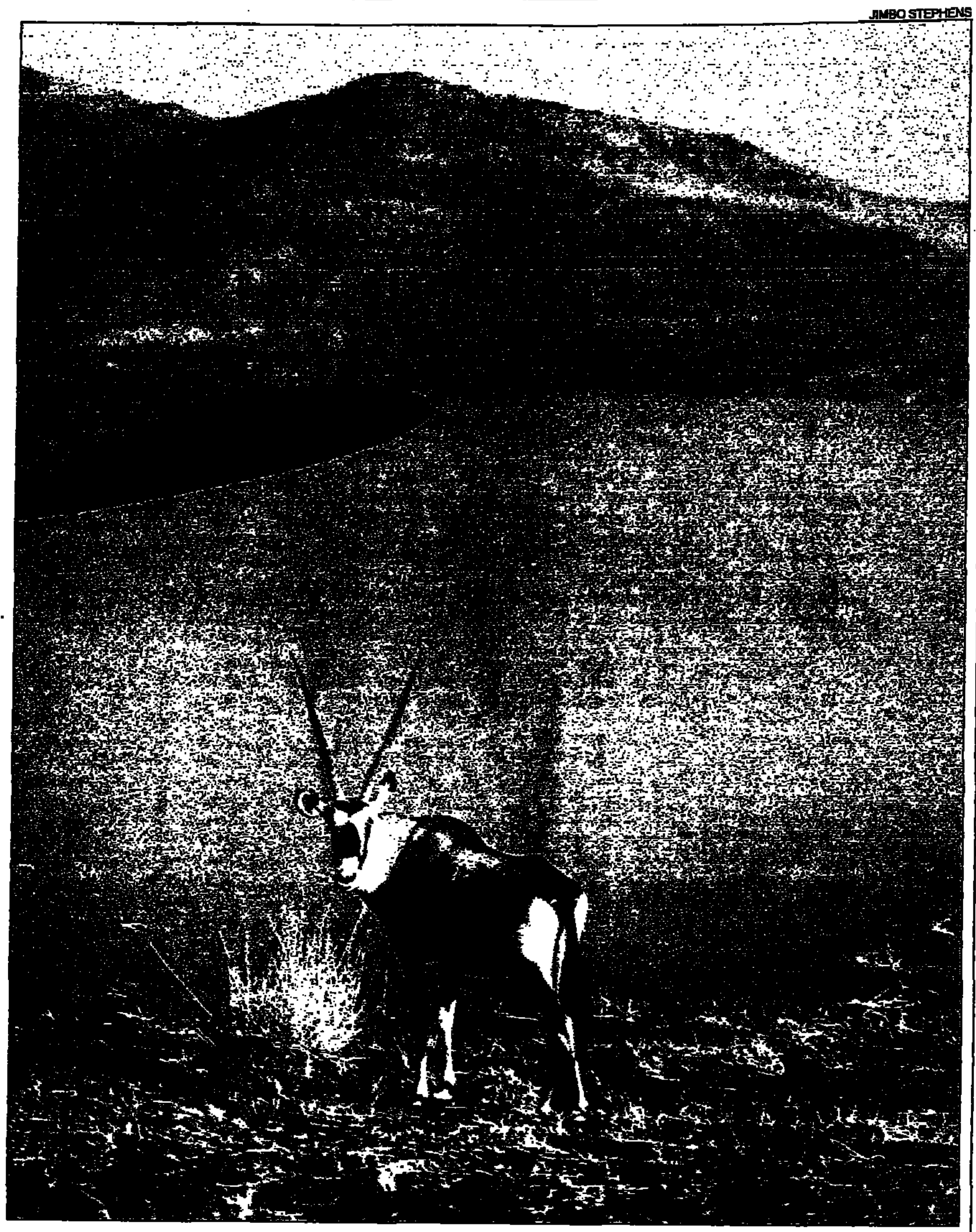
Fact file

The author travelled to Namibia as a guest of Save the Rhino Safaris (0171-409 7982), which acts as a fund-raiser for the organisation Save the Rhino International and the Namibia Black Rhino Fund. He flew with Air Namibia. He travelled in Namibia with Mike Hearn of Save the Rhino Trust, who will be guiding a number of tours with Desert Adventure Safaris.

☐ The itinerary includes time at Huab Lodge, a delightful and restful place on the edge of Damaraland. There is also excellent game viewing to be had at Hobatere.

☐ A three-day extension is available at the stunning Waterberg Plateau. The price for a 17-day safari is £2,535.

JIMBO STEPHENS



Beauty and the beast: the oryx is a sight to behold with its black mask and white socks

AFRICA TIPS

☐ Explore Worldwide (01252 344161) offers a 16-day Kenyan safari, which includes a visit to the Masai Mara Game Reserve. It departs on June 30 and costs £1,395 per person, including return flights from Heathrow, hotel and camping accommodation, most meals and tour guides.

☐ Walking tours in Morocco are offered by Headwater Holidays (01606 48699). A ten-night trip explores the kasbahs of Ouarzazate and the hills and souks of Marrakech. Departing on March 16, it costs from £727 per person, including return flights from Heathrow and some meals.

☐ Encounter (0171-370 6951) offers a 15-day expedition through the Ethiopian highlands, taking in the ancient site of Axum, the Simien National Park and the cave churches of Lalibela. The price, £595 per person, includes all transport, accommodation (mostly camping), food and entrance fees. Flights not included. Departs November 23 and December 7.

☐ Guerba Expeditions (01373 826611) has a 25-day Namibian expedition by 4x4 into the remote Kaokoland Wilderness. Highlights include trips to the ancient Himba tribe, Skeleton Coast and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. The cost, £1,660 per person, includes return flights from Heathrow. Food kitty of £170 required.

☐ The Imaginative Traveller (0181-742 8612) offers an eight-day Kenyan safari through Samburu, Buffalo Springs, the Loldaiga Hills and Lake Nakuru. At £920 per person (based on two sharing), it includes two-nights' lodge accommodation, camping, all meals on safari, entrance fees, transport and guides. Flights not included. Tours departs every Saturday.

☐ The Art of Travel (0171-738 2038) has safaris from an elephant camp in Zimbabwe, taking in Jijima, Deteema and Imbabla. The cost, £1,988 per person, includes return flights from Gatwick, accommodation, all meals and drinks, park fees and guides. Departs April 11, April 20 and June 8.

☐ *Africa by Road* by Bob Swain and Paula Snyder is a guide book recently published by Bradt Publications (01494 873478) at £12.95. Written for travellers wishing to explore the continent in their own vehicle, the guide provides details on driving techniques, equipment and information on countries.

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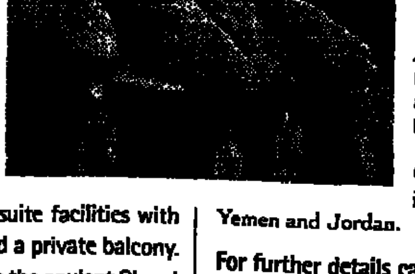


هكذا من الأصل.

EGYPT: Exploring the new pleasures of the Sinai peninsula and enjoying the splendours around Cairo

Tourism and the traditional way of life come together in the southern Sinai, which is being promoted as Egypt's next great visitor attraction

Beaches and Beduin

The Sinai peninsula, with the Red Sea on either side and some of the most important biblical sites in between, is being promoted as Egypt's next great tourist attraction.

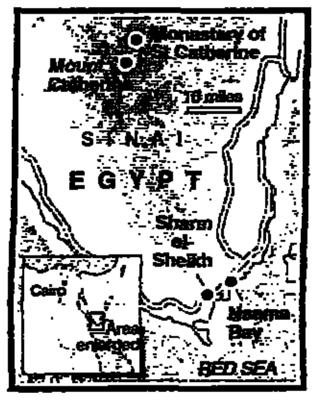
Twenty years ago, Sinai was almost inaccessible to the outside world. A scattering of army barracks, the temporary tent villages of Beduin tribes and a few tarmac roads were about the only human marks left since the Red Sea closed in on the Pharaoh's pursuing army 3,000 years ago.

Tourism has taken off only in the past five years, but progress has been fast. Where Lawrence of Arabia once gathered his Beduin forces for raids against the Turks there are now huge "wedding cake" hotels rising from the sand.

Tourism is concentrated in the southern apex of the triangular peninsula, where a string of resorts have sprung out of the desert near the international airport at Sharm el Sheikh. A handful of British holiday companies are already offering winter-sun and learn-to-dive packages, but it is the Italians who dominate. Egyptian waiters in the bars and restaurants of Sharm el Sheikh greet tourists with "*ciao*" rather than "hello", and the guides often speak better Italian than English. The effect is refreshing. Too many accessible winter sun spots have been discovered and, in some cases, already ruined by the British holiday industry.

The development of the coast continues apace, although the seemingly inexhaustible volume of land means that visitors are not bothered by building-site noises, as on the more crowded Mediterranean coasts.

Most of the development has been of tasteful and upmarket hotels. All the leading international chains are represented here, and there are two Hilton hotels at Sharm el Sheik. Even so, prices are far from prohibitive. When the bottom fell out of the Egyptian tourism industry in 1993, following a spate of terrorist attacks, Sinai became one of the holiday bargains of the world.



The great attraction is the diving, rated among the world's best. The Egyptian authorities know they have a world-class asset on their hands and protect it jealously. Breaking off or even touching the coral is forbidden and the number of visitors to the Rās Muhammad National Marine Park is controlled.

There are dozens of diving schools based in the resorts of Sharm el Sheikh and Naama Bay, offering courses for beginners upwards. Exotic species of fish, from huge manta rays to the beautiful but deadly poisonous lionfish, live in and around the coral reefs. Away from the hotel beaches the water is as clear as glass and even the humble snorkeller can feel like Jacques Cousteau floating above the multicoloured coral walls that line the Sinai coast.

The southern Sinai has much to offer visitors who do not feel the urge to slip on their flippers. As a simple winter getaway it scores well. The resort beaches are rocky rather than sandy, despite the surrounding desert, but a lunar backdrop of barren mountain ranges and brick-red cliffs make this a wildy spectacular place to flop in the sun. An hour's drive away by Jeep, well beyond the reach of most tourists, there are glorious white sands that would make a developer weep.

The resorts offer little in the way of culture or history. They are creations of the last decade and most of the people working there are remittance men from Cairo. Within an easy day trip, however, are some of the most important religious sites, notably St Catherine's Monastery, where 15 Greek Orthodox monks scratch out a living at the site of the "burning bush". Nearby Mount Sinai is even more famous, though the spiritual atmosphere is now often marred by the hordes of less than reverential tourists.

An alternative trip from the coast is a camel ride into the desert to meet the increasingly tourist-dependent Beduin. There are about 70,000 of these nomads living in 25 tribes in the Sinai and, despite Government attempts to rehouse them, they have refused to give up their desert domain.

The evening meal in a Beduin tent, watching the sun setting behind the shark-tooth mountains of the Sinai, is not to be missed.

JONATHAN PRYNN

How to get there and where to stay

☐ The author was a guest of Destination Red Sea (0181-440 9900). Seven-night B&B holidays at a four-star hotel in Sharm el Sheik start from about £389 per person based on two people sharing a room, and includes return flights from Gatwick.

☐ Five-day diving courses cost £175 per person, including weights, tanks and air. Seven nights in a unisex dormitory at the Red Sea College, including the diving course, costs from £439.

☐ An evening camel ride into the desert to have a meal with a Beduin tribe costs about £20 a head. Two-day excursions to Mount Sinai and St Catherine's Monastery cost about £50 a head. Longer excursions are available to Cairo, Aquaba and Petra.

Temples and tombs of the grand tour

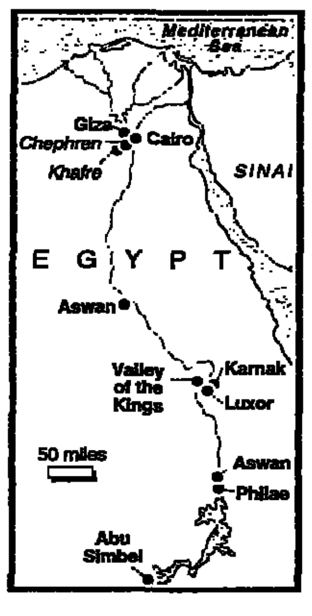
Shuffling out on to the already warming balcony of my hotel room in Cairo, I was presented with compelling evidence that I was indeed staying at one of the grandest hotels in the world. Soaring above the palm trees and the swimming pool in the tropical gardens was the pyramid of Chephren, honey-coloured in the morning sun.

I had arrived at the Oberoi Mena Gardens Hotel at Giza at the start of a seven-day trip to Egypt which was designed to show off. three of the country's most beautiful hotels as much as the treasures of antiquity.

The 14-day Grand Hotels of Egypt tour had been compressed into seven days for our party, giving a first-time visitor to Egypt, like myself, a feeling of sensory overload as we transferred from one magnificent site to another via the glittering elegance of our five-star accommodation.

We had the benefit of a tour manager, Joanna Bales, the company's operations manager, who ushered us from one stop to another via temples and tombs at least 4,000 years old. We also had an Egyptian guide, Mohammed Gamal, a 28-year-old university graduate in tourism, who helped to bring the carvings and paintings alive for us with stories of ancient Egypt.

It was at the Mena Garden hotel in 1943 that Churchill and President Roosevelt met to discuss how to end the Second World War. For a supplement of £90 per person per night you can stay where they were billeted, in the old palace section of the hotel with its gigantic chandelier and arabic wood panels. We had to make do with breakfast on Churchill's balcony.



The stay in Cairo took in a visit to the pyramids, which culminated in a slightly unnerving crawl along a tunnel into the heart of the second-largest pyramid at Giza, the Pyramid of Khafre. The battered Sphinx was in mid restoration.

The highlight of Cairo was the Egyptian Museum in the centre of the city. This gorgeous, shambolic treasure house really demands days, if not weeks, of study. Exhibits are crammed into its galleries, corridors and halls so that you almost stumble by accident upon the Tutankhamun collection with its jewels and vast gilded wooden tomb furniture. The exquisite gold funerary mask is in a side room, in a nondescript glass case.

On to Aswan and the Old Cataract Hotel with its views over the Nile and its islands. Built in 1899, it boasts an historic guest list which includes Agatha Christie, Sir Winston Churchill and Czar Nicholas II. For a guaranteed view of the Nile you need to pay a supplement of £10 per night per person. It's worth it. The balcony view offers a biblical scene, with the white sails of the traditional *feluccas*. On a hill opposite sits the squat form of the Aga Khan's mausoleum. The Old Cataract has a rather unprepossessing modern sister, the New Cataract, which resembles a multistorey car park.

From the Old Cataract, which many would recognise from its backdrop appearance in the film of the Agatha Christie story *Death on the Nile*, we were treated to a river trip on a *felucca*, a flight to visit Abu Simbel — the vast temple rescued and relocated to escape the rising waters created by the High Dam — and the beautiful Temple at Philae, another site moved from the path of the waters.

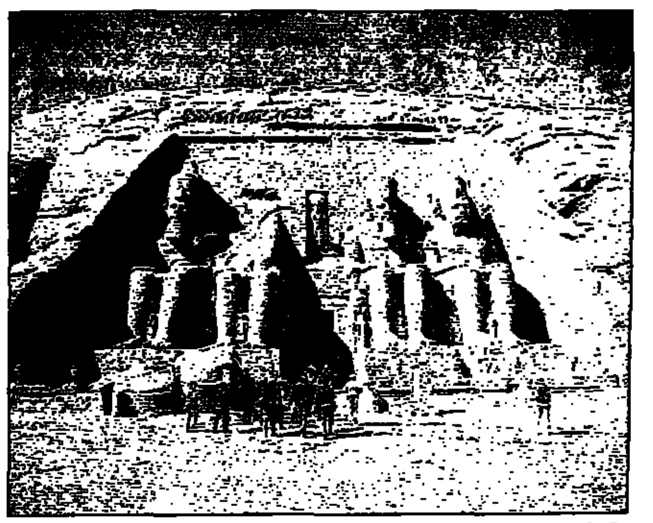
The final hotel on the trip was the Old Winter Palace at Luxor, another short flight up the Nile. Built as an hotel by Thomas Cook at the end of the last century, and set in tropical gardens on the banks of the great river, it was later used by King Farouk as his winter resort home.

From the front steps of the palace you can catch a ferry to the west bank and take a bus ride to the Valley of the Kings.

Despite the daytime heat — it was about 45C — one of the advantages of visiting Egypt during the unpopular summer season is that the crowds of tourists at the magnificent tombs are thinner. You have more time to study the paintings and carvings and wonder at it all.

The temple complex at Karnak is probably too large ever to get crowded. It is simply a place to stroll around, listen to your guide and marvel.

JOHN WELLMAN



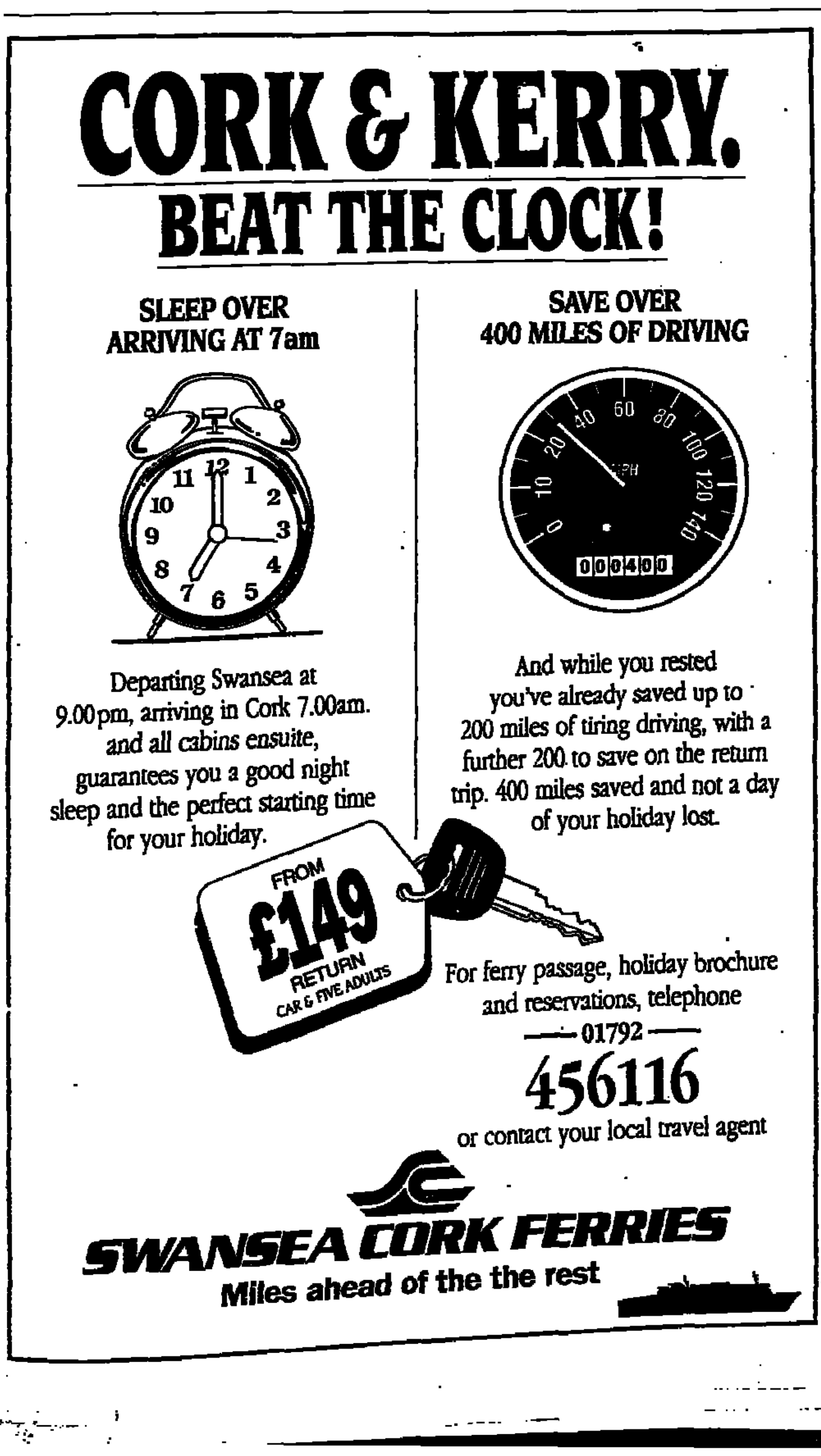
The relocated temple of Ramses II (1250 BC) at Abu Simbel

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Bales Tours (01306 885991), Oberoi Hotels at the Mena Garden at Giza, Hotel Sofitel at the Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan and the Old Winter Palace Hotel at Luxor, and of EgyptAir (0171-580 4239).

☐ The Bales Grand Hotels of Egypt tour costs from £795 per person in the off-season in June (single supplement £275) rising to £1,245 for December 17 to 31 1996 (single supplement £399). Price includes B&B and return flights from London.

☐ Tour guides for the sites mentioned could be organised at a total price of about £216, including English-speaking guide, driver and car and entrance fees, but not tips.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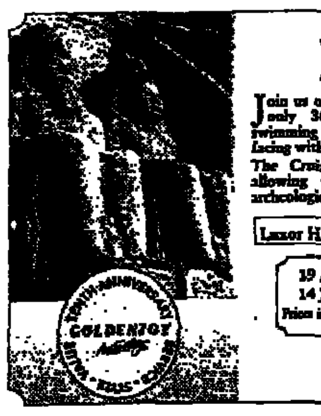
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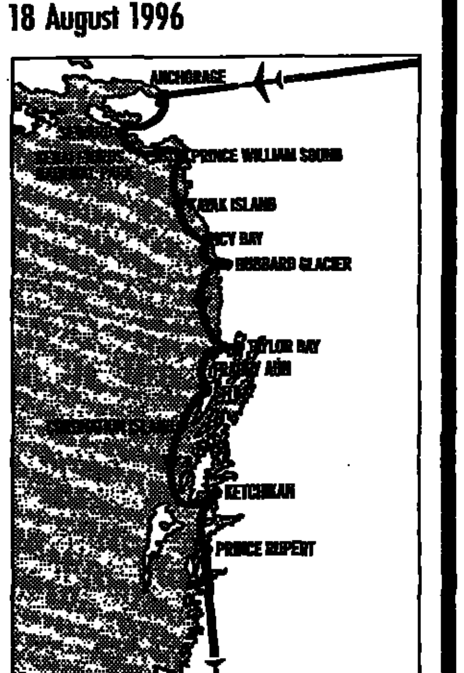

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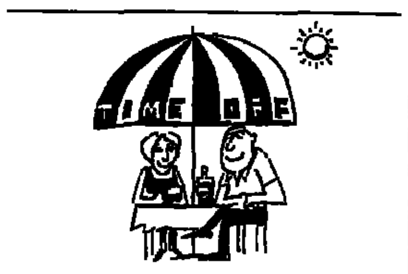

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SKIING: A shiver runs through it — but that has more to do with Lone Peak's rides than Montana's weather

Big Sky's the limit for thrills and spills

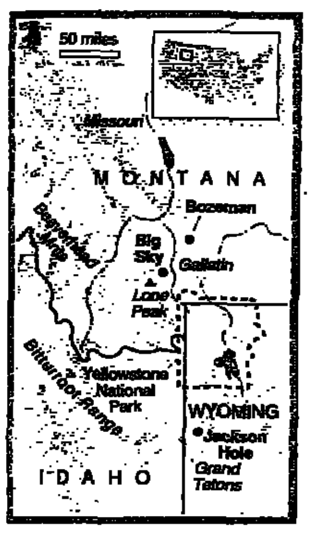
The only thing likely to sabotage Big Sky's skiing is the fierce wind but you can always go bison spotting in a snowmobile in Yellowstone Park

By Thanksgiving Day last year the snow was already deep in the Beaverhead range of south-west Montana. The grizzlies had retreated to their dens.

The skiing conditions were the best in America — but they would have been even better a month earlier. An eight-foot base had done some melting since October.

Winter comes early to this lonesome reach of the Rockies. Cold air from the far north *mixes with moisture from the* Pacific, turning Yellowstone Park white and one neighbouring mountain into a miniature Everest.

That mountain is Lone Peak, rising to 11,166ft from the gorge of the Gallatin river in which Brad Pitt wooed a million palpitating hearts in the film *A River Runs Through It*. A new lift that vaults up Lone Peak's north face now gives Big Sky, the purpose-*built village* below it, the most "vertical feet" of any ski resort in America.



A hundred miles to the south, the better-known ski town of Jackson Hole in the craggier Grand Tetons still has the country's biggest drop for a single run. But Big Sky's vertical feet — the plumb-line distance from the top of its *highest lift* to the bottom of its lowest — are not to be sniffed at.

For one thing, they give Europeans spoilt by huge lift systems such as those of the Three Valleys and Tignes-Val d'Isère some assurance that they will break sweat before reaching the bottom. For another, the top of Lone Peak is one of the few places in America where skiers can be scared witless without having to sign a waiver promising not to sue if they get hurt.

The lift alone is enough to induce vertigo. There are no pylons, just a Tardis-like capsule with standing room for 15 people slung beneath a single loop of high-tension cable. The ride is a four-minute lurch from base camp to summit. It looks similar to one of the world's oldest and hairiest cable car journeys, high above Chamonix, from Le Brevent across a chasm to a nearby cliff.

A Big Sky spokesman explained with some anxiety that from the top there is no easy way down except in the lift. The entire summit cone is designated double black diamond, or "extreme". Below it, the options are named with all the verve and subtlety of the Old West — names such as Hanging Wall, Dirt Bag Wall, Dictator Chutes and Bone Crusher.

Despite this, the resort's owner, a youthful entrepreneur called John Kircher, says the new skiing is "European-like".

I had to take his word for it. October's heavy snows had delayed completion of the £3 million Lone Peak tram, forcing workers to continue their welding into December. They said it was no worse than maintaining oil rigs in northern Alaska. Meanwhile, five of the resort's 12 lifts provided quite enough excitement for a long weekend before you even put your skis on.

Before Austrian engineers plotted the conquest of Lone Peak, Big Sky was known for its long, easy cruising runs through the trees on the mountain's lower slopes. But it also had plenty of what the cowboys hereabouts call steep 'n' deep, reached by a chairlift called the Challenger that gives northerly views of Montana's high plains and eastward ones of Yellowstone — grizzly country.

There is little doubt that with a fully functioning Lone Peak tram, a week's visit would be worth the hassle of the nine-hour flight from Gatwick.

The only thing likely to sabotage the wildest of Big Sky's skiing is the wind, the fierce nor'westerly that blows down the Bitterroot range from Canada and could, says Mr Kircher, keep the top of Lone Peak shut for half the season.

In that event there is always snow-mobiling to be done in Yellowstone (provided Kawasaki can conform to new National Parks Service standards by building quieter machines so as not to wake the bears). And, in the evenings, there is line-dancing to be learnt on the sawdust and sprung timbers of Lone Mountain Ranch.

Big Sky was founded in 1973 by a retired NBC newsreader called Chet Huntley. For most of the 23 years since then his creation has been able to claim an absence of lift queues, or, as one American ski magazine put it, a maximum of elbow room. This could change. Another NBC newsreader, Tom Brokaw, owns a massive ranch not far away. So does Ted Turner, the founder of CNN. There is an encroaching trendiness about this corner of America that *A River Runs Through It* did nothing to dispel, and to encourage waverers Big Sky is subsidising weekend flights from Seattle and Minneapolis to Bozeman, which is an hour's drive away.

For now, though, the resort enjoys many of the blessings of isolation. Do not expect to find gourmet mountain restaurants or string quartets playing in the lobby of the Huntley Lodge. But don't be surprised, either, to see a wolf prowling around the bottom lift station.

GILES WHITTELL

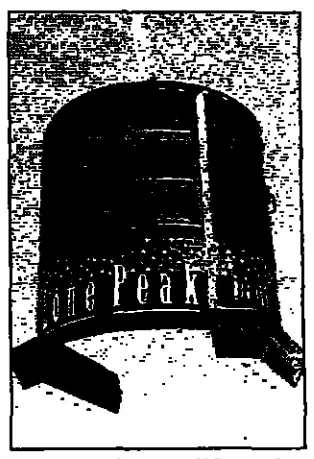
Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Huntley Lodge. Booked independently, a double room costs $167 (£110) a night. Big Sky Central Reservations (00 1 406 995 5000) serves the hotel and the adjoining Shoshone self-catering condominiums.

☐ Lift passes, $43 (£28) a day, $228 (£149) for six days. For children under ten, *lift passes and* accommodation at Huntley Lodge are free.

☐ Resort height, 7,500ft. Average snowfall, 32ft per year. Skiing range, 6,970ft-11,150ft. Lifts, 12. Eighty miles of runs, of which 10 per cent suit beginners, 47 per cent intermediates and 43 per cent advanced skiers. *Cross-country trails, about* 47 miles.

☐ Crystal Holidays (0181-241 4000) and Ski the American Dream (0181-470 1181) offer packages to Big Sky with flights from Gatwick via Minneapolis on Northwest Airlines. Ski the American Dream offers seven days at the ski-in-ski-out Huntley Lodge Hotel in peak season (March), including breakfast and return flights, but not lift passes, for £845 per person sharing a double room. Children under ten, £405. A 14-day package costs £1,259.



The Tardis-like lift vaults up Lone Peak's north face

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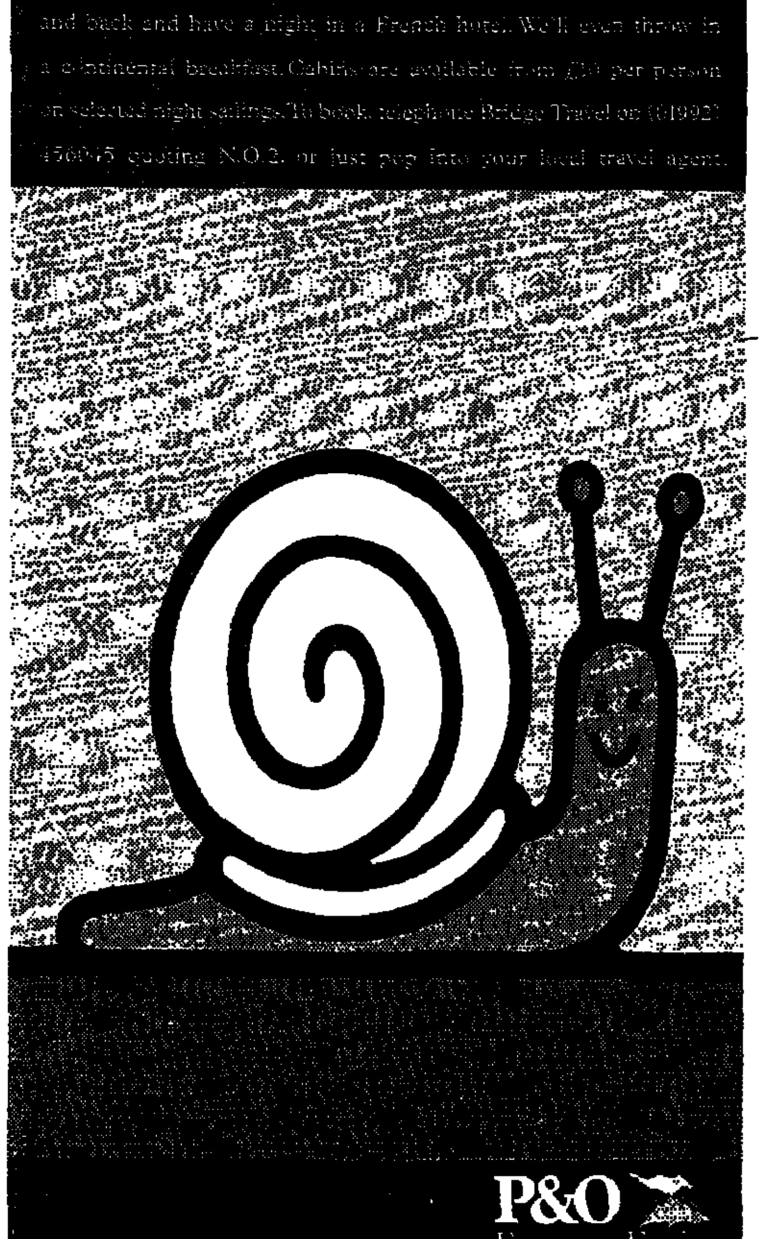

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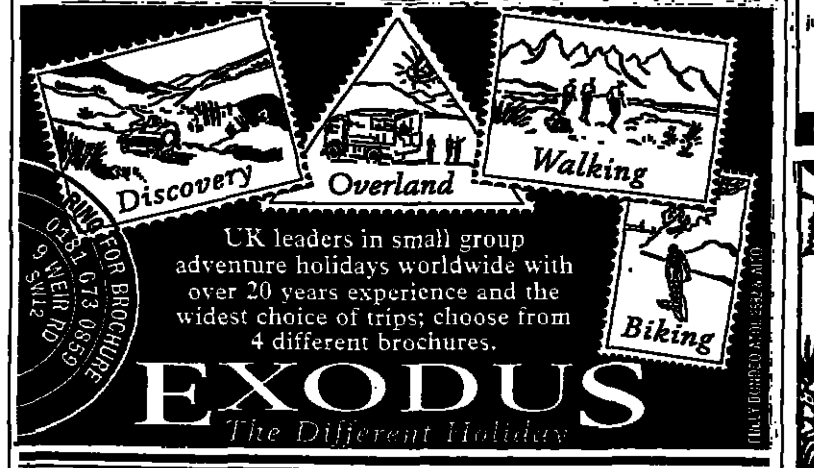

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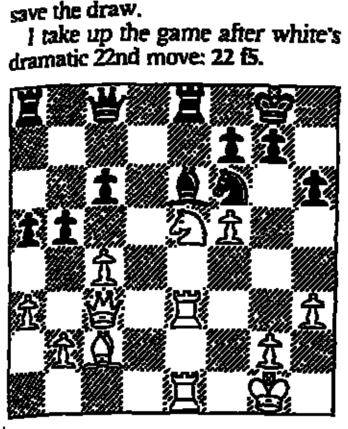
GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

ONE of the most fascinating games from Kasparov's recent victory *against* the Deep Blue *computer* was game four. The standard method against computers is to keep the position closed and strategic, and if possible suppress any tactics. Here Kasparov's inclination to attack got the better of him. Deep Blue sidestepped a number of *poisonous* traps, and ultimately it was Kasparov who had to fight to save the draw.

I take up the game after white's dramatic 22nd move: 22 f5.



A fascinating decision. My inclination would have been a quiet move such as 22 Kh2, leaving Black with the onus of finding a continuation.

22 . . . **Bxc4!** Curiously, Deep Blue had "crashed" before this *move* and a 20-minute interval ensued before it could be restarted. Before the crash, Kasparov had been expecting Deep Blue to accept the pawn sacrifice by 22 . . . Bxf5, when he claimed that he would have had a win available that was *beyond the computer's* analytical horizon. Did the crash divert Deep Blue from what might have been its original intention?

Let us look at what could occur after the expected move 22 . . . Bxf5. Now White has to force the pace with the sacrifice 23 Nxf7!?, after which Black has three possibilities:

(a) 23 . . . Bxc2 and now 24 Nxh6+! gxh6 25 Qxc2 is unexpectedly *strong* for White, *who* threatens Qg6+, e.g. 25 . . . Kg7 (not 25 . . . Rxe3 26 Qg6+ and Qxf6+) 26 Rxe8 Nxe8 27 Re7+ Kf6 (27 . . . Kf8 28 Qh7 is immediately decisive) 28 Qh7 and the exposed black king will soon succumb to the white attack. It is very difficult to see a defence for Black after 25 Qxc2.

(b) 23 . . . Kxf7 is poor on account of 24 Rxe8 Nxe8 25 Bxf5 and White regains material equality (25 . . . Qxf5 26 Rf1) while maintaining a powerful initiative.

(c) 23 . . . *Rxe3* is the best move, with a possible continuation of 24 Nxh6+ *gxh6 25 Rxe3 Bxc2* (25 . . . Nh5 is possible: then White can consider 26 Re5 Bxc2 27 Rxh5, with *a strong initiative)* 26 Qxf6 Qf8 27 Qxc6 with two pawns and a continuing initiative for the piece.

23 Nxc4 bxc4 24 Rxe8+ Nxe8
25 Re4 Nf6 26 Rxc4 Nd5

Superficially White has a great advantage. Black's knight on d5 is *not entirely* stable and he has three pawn islands to White's two. All is far from finished, though, and over the next few moves Deep Blue shows that this is entirely its kind of position.

27 Qe5 Qd7 28 Rg4 f6
29 Qd4 Kh7 30 Re4 Rd8
31 *Kh1* *Qc7* 32 *Qf2* *Qb8*
33 Ba4 c5 34 Bc6 c4

An unpleasant *shock for Kasparov*. Suddenly White's king is exposed to threats on its own back rank.

35 Rxc4 Nb4. *Deep Blue reroutes* its knight, using the obvious threat of . . . Rd1+ along the way. **36 Bf3 *Nd3*.** *Black has* given up a pawn, but this is purely temporary. Its knight has attained a dominating position and White's queenside pawns are ripe for the harvest. White is now clearly on the defensive.

37 Qh4 Qxb2 38 Qg3 Qxa3
39 Rc7 Qf8 40 Ra7 *Ne5*
41 Rxa5 Qf7

This sacrifice is the neatest way of ensuring a draw.

42 Rxe5! fxe5 43 Qxe5 Re8
44 Qf4 Qf6 45 Bh5 Rf8
46 Bg6+ Kh8 47 Qc7 Qd4
48 Kh2 Ra8 49 Bh5 Qf6
50 Bg6 *Rg8*

Draw agreed.

Fortunately for Kasparov, he can still oscillate his bishop between h5 and g6, so Black can do nothing.

WINNING MOVE

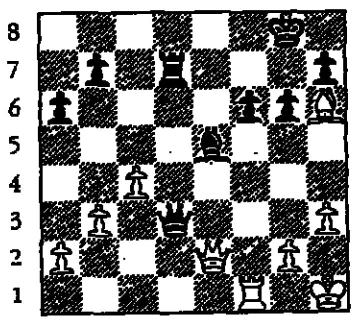
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Illescas - Rachels, New York 1987. How did White create insoluble *problems* for his opponent in this simple-looking position? White to play.

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington *Street, London* E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Bxg5+.

Last week's winners: B Conway, Radcliffe, Manchester; J Wood, Riverside, Cardiff; J Lysaght, Corby, Northants.



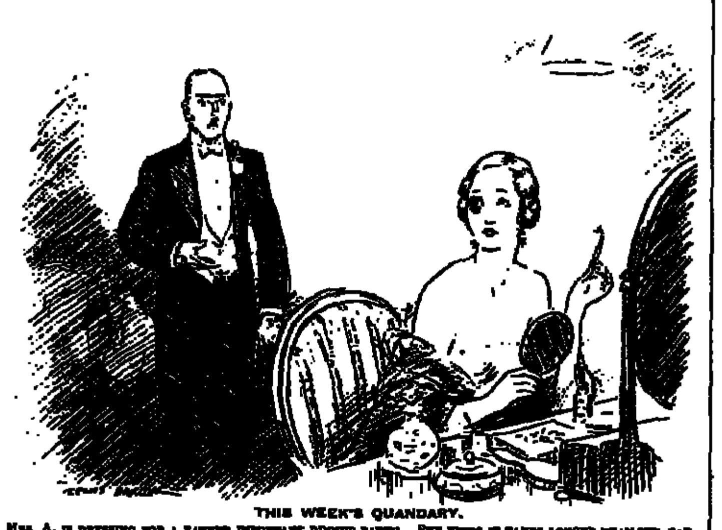
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be *printed* again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from *those submitted*.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (98), Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, March 6.



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"I fear the Audition Manager for Riverdance *requires very high standards*'

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mrs M. M. Defley, of Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

QUELLIO
a. A Spanish ruff
b. An ancient quill pen
c. I cease

ROTIFERA
a. A spit
b. An Alpine ferret
c. Tiny animals

RAMILLIE
a. A family tree
b. A plaited wig
c. Higgledy-piggledy

PREGNADA
a. A lemon
b. A fiancée
c. She infuriates

Answers on page 17

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

YOUR side bids 1NT - 3NT, and *this is the lay-out of the spade suit* (as South you are the declarer):

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♠10932

West leads the six of spades. You have to knock out an ace in another suit to make your contract, but *otherwise you have no problems.* Your sole concern is to stop the defence making four tricks in this suit. *Do you hold up?*

You might think: "Well, if East has the missing ace and a doubleton spade, I will cut the communications by ducking. Meanwhile if West has the missing ace there's nothing I can do about it." But what you are missing is the significance of the small card lead — West cannot have K Q J of spades, or else he would have led one. Hence East must have at least one honour (from Rule of Eleven he has two spades higher than the six), and, if the suit is *split* 5-2, you can block it by playing the ace on the first round. This is the distribution *you are guarding against:*

♠A4
♠KJ865 N W E S ♠Q7
♠10932

This hand is on a similar theme:

♠2
♥AKQ5
♦A75
♣KQJ94

♠K975
♥J4
♦QJ963
♣53

North opened One Club, you responded *One Diamond and West* overcalled Two Spades, showing a six-card suit and possibly some outside values. You then arrive in 3NT. The lead is the six of spades, and East plays the queen. How would you play?

In the 1996 Macallan International Pairs the only declarer to succeed was Seymon Deutsch. He won and played a club. That *worked as the spades were blocked*. I think his play was correct. If West had A J 10 of spades, he might well *have led the jack. Thus the signs* were that the suit wouldn't run. This was the full deal:

Dealer North — Love All

♠2
♥AKQ5
♦A75
♣KQJ94

West		East
♠AJ8643 ♥1086 ♦10 ♣A82	N W E S	♠Q10 ♥9732 ♦K842 ♣1076

♠K975
♥J4
♦QJ963
♣53

At some tables South replied One Spade to One Club, so West passed. *Now after a spade lead it was* more difficult to gauge the position. Two declarers decided to win and take the *diamond* finesse, hoping that West had Kx — three off. When the ten of diamonds appears from West on the first round they might have risen with the ace to play on clubs — it is unlikely that West has played the ten of diamonds from K 10 alone, so a spade blockage becomes the only hope.

CYBERSPACE TWENTY-ONE — THE WINNERS

by Tim Wapshott

CYBERSPACE Twenty-One called *on you to invent computer games*, and the entries ranged from Sim **Peace Process**, in which you must "create peace in a randomly generated, politically unstable area", to **Rookie's Rescue**, offering you the chance to play a thieving magpie.

At stake were five NEC 4x4c multispin CD-Rom jukeboxes, quad-speed drives which load up to four disks simultaneously and are *worth £199. And so, without further* ado, to our winning entrants.

A game with a sinister feel, ***Kidnap & Rescue*** came from the imagination of Paul Ravinet from Wokingham, Berkshire. "This is a game of strategy which involves the rescue from kidnappers of a boy whose father is on the run, and therefore cannot turn to the police for help," he wrote. "The player assumes the role of the father and has a limited amount of cash to buy equipment to get his son back. Car and house contents can also be sold to raise cash. Next you must put up posters in shop windows and talk to people to locate the boy.

"You will end up in a building where you will have to stun or kill with your fists or a gun. If you succeed, you will take your son and embark on a car chase. After *that you go to the HQ of the* Bad People, where it's a one-on-one with the few baddies left. After that you can carry your son back home."

Sophie Brannand from Chorley, Lancashire, submitted **Toddlers**, a game based on the antics of her younger brother. A toddler has three lives, and the aim is a simple battle to keep the child safe. "The various levels would include trips to the zoo, restaurants, shops and *family* gatherings. *At the* zoo, the object is to feed the animals different foods in the allotted time limit, while avoiding snack machines and any gates left open. When out shopping, you must follow the toddler around the store, catching the various items pulled off shelves. In the restaurant you block food thrown at diners."

Thomas Barker from Orpington, *Kent, opted for a snowy setting* coupled with, oddly, Hell's Angels in his game **SnowFred**. He wrote: "You have to collect enough snow piles to build a snowman at the end of each level. Snowballs are also used to shoot monsters including Bigfoots, Yetis, Hell's Angels and polar bears." Travelling through the platforms, you can collect objects to help you, such as a snowboard, ice skates and even salt, which you can use to slow yourself down. Hazards include cracked ice and icebergs.

Road-Rage Newbury: eco-warriors

Store-Nado *is a game based on* the trials of everyday life and was submitted by Martin Leigh from Twyford, Hampshire. "The aim is to collect as many items on a shopping list as possible at the *lowest* cost before your parking ticket runs out.

"Set in an out-of-town shop*ping centre with a near-full* multi-storey car park, you must first park as near to the entrance as possible while fighting off the competition for vacant spaces and negotiating the one-way system. Once inside the supermarket, you pick a good trolley and set off to find everything on the shopping list. "Some items on the list will need thought, such as cheesecake mix. Hazards include double-width trolleys and a bottle of olive oil which lies broken on the floor."

Other perils include finding the fastest checkout till and packing away groceries without breaking eggs or bruising fruit.

The last winner is D. Dignam from Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, for **Road-Rage Newbury**. He explained: "Eco-warriors battle to defend their fortress in the trees as the *chainsaws rev* and *rip* below them. If they leave their 'twigloos' to sabotage the road builders' petrol *dump, they risk being arrested. For* one or two players, you can be the road builder or road resister.

"Road builders have to find the right balance of chainsaws, security and bulldozers — with big *fines for injuring people.* You can destroy as much of the countryside as you like, but killing an endangered bug or a rare weed means more fines and delays. There are also buried archaeological sites and if your bulldozers hit one of these the men from the museum could delay work for months."

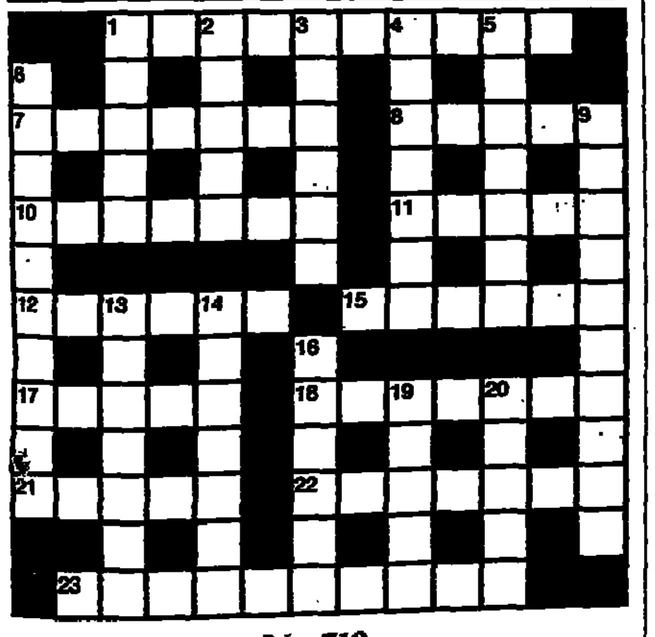
Road resisters, however, can try to stand up to the bulldozers on *their own*, but they will fare better if they invest in more scientists and archaeologists to find rare species or new important ruins. You can also fund your own television team to catch out road builders playing *dirty on the days that the press and* media are not around.

"Both sides also need to watch out for traffic on Newbury's existing roads. As congestion increases pollution, townspeople start going to hospital with illnesses."

Congratulations to our five winners. As always, thanks and condolences to all who entered. Next week, the wraps come off *Cyberspace Twenty-Two.*

"We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the *road. They get run down." Aneurin* Bevan (1953).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 719

ACROSS
1 Morning twittering (4,6)
7 *Weapon store* (7)
8 Pulsate painfully (5)
10 Programme involving listeners (5-2)
11 Similar (5)
12 Abate (6)
15 Adorn, festoon (6)
17 Incites; *they are won by the* brave (5)
18 Drowned girl (*Hamlet*) (7)
21 Male duck (5)
22 Marsh gas (7)
23 Cauldron (for mixing people, ideas) (7,3)

DOWN
1 Dance (club) with pop music (5)
2 Screw up face in pain (5)
3 Group of settlers (6)
4 Furious anger (7)
5 Country, capital Kiev (7)
6 *Reduced to beggary* (10)
9 Mole built out into sea (10)
13 Holy war (7)
14 Cut up (eg lab specimen) (7)
16 Piece of land; ordinary (6)
19 Get warm, exciting (*slang*) (3,2)
20 Smallest amount (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 718
ACROSS: 1 Dilatory 5 Itch 9 Fringe benefit 10 Zeno 11 Noblest 13 Excite 15 In half 18 Masseur 20 Cock 23 Mouth-watering 24 Noel 25 Sensibly
DOWN: 1 Doff 2 Loire 3 Tugboat 4 Rubens 6 Taffeta 7 Hot stuff 8 Knob 12 Helmsman 14 Costume 16 Nucleus 17 Arcane 19 Echo 21 Climb 22 Ugly

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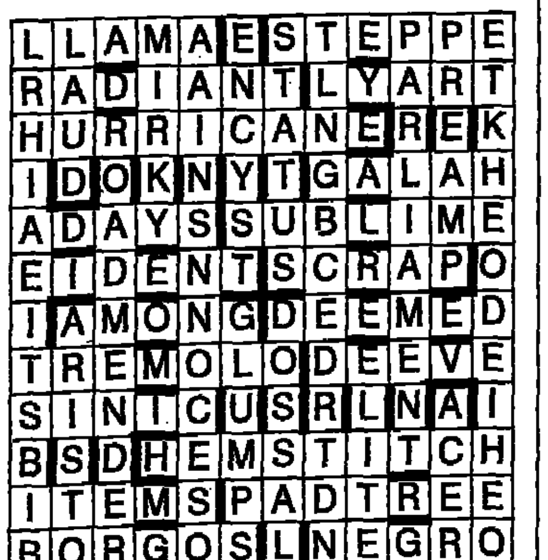
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3347: Take Your Partners by Llig

TWENTY-FIVE clues, without definitions, lead to words which in turn lead to the relevant lights. To complete the *theme*, *one* uncluded light may be deduced, and its associated partner (8) should be entered below the grid.

ACROSS
2 Hurdler's beginning in light run.
6 A call for effort by backward beast.
10 Small rainproof company capsizes.
13 I may exercise veto by right.
14 Stop a long time.
16 One to use alternative language.
17 Formal dress conceals wife in short tea party.
18 It indicates a tumour in top half of stomach.
19 Stroke's submerged by Oxford in Thames.
20 A lesson the French hesitate over.
21 Radical one in favour of Paraguay left.
23 One of the Yugoslavs, one hears, is bitter.
25 Lavish on worker a hand-out.
27 Old relations seem confused.
30 It's indispensable in part of Central Europe.
31 Leader of eastern community.
34 *Jones' shop after explosion.*
36 A bit of Edam is overwhelmed by Cheddar, for example.
38 Dress for a bishop, of course.
40 Board gathers round.
41 Satellite crosses rim of Jupiter on time.
43 Look round — that's Jock's love.
45 Mathematical aid when one's cut off from calculators.
48 Choose one for the Academy.
49 I start to embroil with crook.
51 Futile search for vaults.
53 Sob convulsively in anger.
55 A bit of excess drink's thought to be evil.
57 Sultanate's cut short and overthrown.
58 Wine cartel gets smashed.
59 Little Rachel takes time in class.
60 First-timer has a lot of arrears.
61 War cry gives work to the Time Lord.
62 *One of the Apocrypha* describes divine floating masses.
64 Fashions assigned to Scot.

DOWN
1 Colour goes against the grain.
2 *Form a mass in the valley.*
3 Chap's on the wagon — it might cause colic.
4 Less tough Liberal cutter.
5 Possibly cut head off.
6 Two notes encapsulate ascending song.
7 Spread the balm.
8 Not at all cross returning.
9 Afresh when returning, we hear.
11 Girdles bear weight up.
12 Being bowled, with hesitation — it's all in doubt.
15 I save hide, after punch-up.
21 Dud pilot embraces one, old fruit.
22 Mist surrounds top of mountain in a lot of foam.
24 British pass over group of nations.
26 Offer to pay for half a sheep.
28 Wound most of joint.
29 Passages about the Orkneys for example.
32 Came across Argon, indicating an isomer.
33 Most important University lecturer precedes head of tutors.
34 Erl-King almost bewitched.
35 Vote against approval in recess.
37 Failure to understand an elderly relative.
39 Gypsy type lacks nothing in space.
41 In favour of Church Assembly.
42 *Part of the Greek resistance* sounds divided.
44 Type of tube, one left on incline.
46 A shovel stands by the ditch.
47 The relics, knocked about a bit.
48 Buddhist initiating Eastern revival.
50 Irrigation system new on the valley.
52 Fret cloth without alternative technology.
53 Non-U meal — it lends nutty flavour to the *sherry*.
54 Scandinavian to overtake pacemaker in front.
55 Put end of needle on small-sounding case.
56 Boy has yen for house mistress.



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H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E	R	E	K
I	D	O	K	N	Y	T	G	A	L	A	H
A	D	A	Y	S	S	U	B	L	I	M	E
E	I	D	E	N	T	S	C	R	A	P	O
I	A	M	O	N	G	D	E	E	M	E	D
T	R	E	M	O	L	O	D	E	E	V	E
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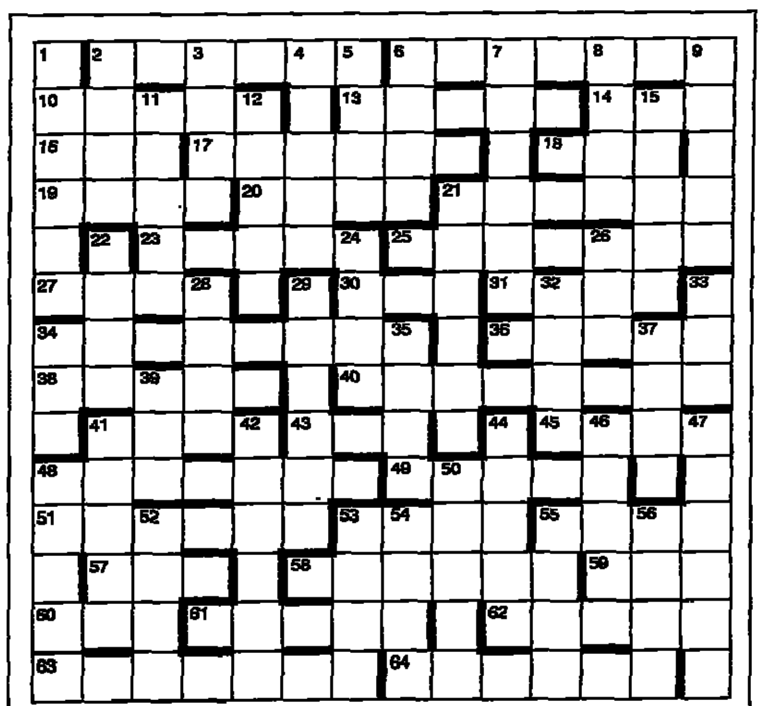
I	T	E	M	S	P	A	D	T	R	E	E
B	O	R	G	O	S	L	N	E	G	R	O

Solution to No 3344: Good for Nothing by Dimitry

The quotation and author, appropriately reading across the columns, not down, is LATERAL THINKING HAS BEEN COINED TO DESCRIBE THIS: DE BONO.

The winner is Mrs R. Dunn, of Worcester. The runners up are P. J. Woodham, of Colchester, Essex; and P. R. Tyler, of Aylesbeare, near Exeter.

The setters' dinner takes place in Leeds on Saturday, March 16. There will be space for solvers interested in attending. Please contact Michael Rich, tel/fax 01765 604034



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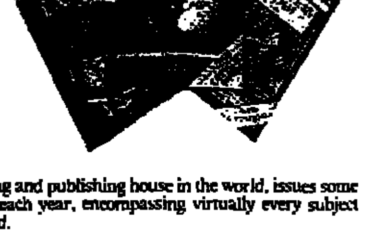

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Ref. No. 42[illegible]

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Police given health warning on new CS gas canister

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE in England and Wales went on patrol yesterday armed with CS gas sprays in spite of warnings about possible health risks.

More than 2,000 officers have been issued with the canisters. The gas can incapacitate an assailant within seconds, but the 16 forces taking part in the six-month trial have been warned that it may also cause facial and eye injuries which could lead to damages claims.

The solvent used as a propellant in the French-made canisters can cause secondary effects of skin reddening, scaling and blistering, according to a report by the Association of Chief Police Officers. It added that less research had been carried out on the solvent used as a propellant in the canisters than the association had been given to understand.

Three police officers involved in testing the gas are seeking damages for injuries.

PC Caroline Corrie carrying the CS spray

The association's report, circulated to chief constables, said there were two options: await the development of a new product with a safe solvent, which could take months, or go ahead with the trials "in the knowledge of the possible health risks that have been identified".

It added: "Chief constables may not feel that they are prepared to wait this long for a less than lethal option to protect officers."

The gas will be carried by 1,000 Met officers based at Streatham, Charing Cross, Forest Gate, Ealing, and South Norwood, and officers in Avon and Somerset, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Dorset, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Greater Manchester, Kent, Leicestershire, Merseyside, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, West Mercia, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

The five-inch-long canisters, already used by police in Belgium and France, are carried in a belt pouch. They contain CS in powder form which can be propelled up to three metres by a solvent, MIBK, aimed at the attacker's face. Officers will be asked to complete questionnaires after using the spray.

A Metropolitan Police inspector is one of three officers seeking compensation for skin blistering suffered after exposure to CS during testing by Northamptonshire Police. The force would not disclose the sum being sought.

Ian Walker, a solicitor representing the three officers, said: "They suffered most unpleasant burns and in one case the spray was put directly into his eyes and that is what caused the burning to the eyeballs.

"If this sort of thing is going to happen to members of the public, it is very worrying."

Ministers have been under pressure to provide the police with additional protection. Paul Kernaghan, assistant chief constable of North Yorkshire, which is testing the sprays, said: "I would accept there may possibly be an adverse health reaction. However, I would not consider this to be severe on the basis of the advice available to me.

"These sprays have been subject to rigorous testing by independent scientific and medical advisers. We have been told by the Home Office and the Department of Health that the product we are trialling is the best available, so we are operating on the basis of their professional advice."

KIERAN DOHERTY

Police with one of the arrested men. They threw him to the ground and bound his hands with plastic cord

Officers open fire on hijacked security van

ARMED police ambushed a hijacked security van yesterday, firing shots and arresting several people.

The police officers, wearing bullet-proof vests and carrying machine pistols, stopped the van near a disused warehouse in Fulham, southwest London. Three police vans, several police cars and an ambulance converged on the scene.

Police said several arrests were been made. One man was thrown to the ground as he was arrested in the road. Officers from the Flying Squad tied his hands behind his back with plastic cord and held him to the ground. No one was injured.

The incident centred on an empty alleyway 50 metres from a large Sainsbury's supermarket at about 8.45am, near the Chelsea Harbour Club gym often used by the Princess of Wales. She did not attend the gym yesterday.

Scotland Yard said: "Officers investigating a security van hijack stopped a vehicle in Townmead Road. A number of people are in custody and inquiries continue."

Jailed sergeant is cleared by judge

BY RICHARD DUCE

A POLICE sergeant who had a heart attack after he was jailed for assaulting a 13-year-old boy had his conviction quashed on appeal yesterday.

Sergeant Rod Adams, who spent 24 hours in solitary confinement at Brixton prison because of fear of criminal reprisals, was cheered and congratulated by 20 fellow officers as he left the dock at Southwark Crown Court, London.

Sgt Adams, 39, supported by his wife Sue, said afterwards: "It has been a nightmare, absolutely terrible. My world fell apart. I was traumatised, having nightmares and not sleeping."

He had been jailed for 28 days by Bow Street magistrates last January on a charge of assault against the boy at Harrow police station in February 1995. He was released after 24 hours pending appeal.

Yesterday Judge Rivlin, QC, rejected the evidence of a police officer who was the main prosecution witness. He said there was too much evidence contradicting PC James Carter, 38, who said he saw Sgt Adams grab the boy by the throat and push him against a wall.

Michael Bromley-Carter, representing Sgt Adams, said: "Carter misconstrued and exaggerated what happened." Sgt Adams said he had used "reasonable force" to restrain the boy, who was lashing out with his arms and legs.

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Kew faces first strike in over two centuries

By Robin Young

FOR the first time since their creation in 1759 the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew are facing strike action.

Eighty members of the GMB general union voted yesterday to down tools next Friday for the day in protest at last year's pay settlement which, they say, will leave many of them with increases of less than 1 per cent.

Paul Moloney, GMB's regional organiser, said: "The pay award was supposed to take effect at the beginning of last July, but we have negotiated this long to get nowhere. We have tried everything to reach a satisfactory agreement. Our members are very reluctant to do anything that might harm the well-being of the world's greatest collection of plants and flowers."

Maureen Long, head of people, planning and development at the gardens, in south-west London, said the award gave an average increase of 6½ per cent, and compared favourably with other government-funded organisations, where increases averaged 3 per cent. She said: "Only six of 154 staff in the grade affected will have rises under 1 per cent, and they are people who have been judged to be underperforming." Ms Long said that the gardens, which receive an annual grant-in-aid of £15.5 million and attract one million visitors a year, had not received extra money for pay increases for the past three years. "We will be meeting the GMB on Monday and hope that it will be possible to reach an agreement," she said.

Kew originated from the royal gardens of Queen Caroline, wife of George II, and her daughter-in-law, Princess Augusta, the mother of George III. They were presented to the nation by Queen Victoria and opened to the public in 1841. Under the National Heritage Act 1983 a board of trustees was formed to administer the gardens.

Kew carries out research into plant sciences. The emphasis is on plant conservation and biodiversity.

The collection of more than 40,000 plants in 300 acres of grounds includes several species extinct in the wild and thousands whose future is threatened. Admission charges to the gardens, which were only 1p as recently as 1979, were increased to £4.50 last month.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Doug Goodyer, Hever Castle's head gardener, among the snowdrops yesterday, when the 186 acres of grounds reopened for daily public viewing until next winter

Astor's Hever vision grows into garden of the year

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

HEVER CASTLE, Kent, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, has won the 1995 Garden of the Year Award, sponsored by the Historic Houses Association and Christie's. The 186 acres of grounds are largely the Edwardian creation of William Astor, the American multimillionaire who bought Hever in 1903.

Peter Sinclair, executive secretary of the association, said the 12th annual award reflected "not only the horticultural interest of the garden, which is high, but the public enjoyment it has given". Last year there were 260,000 visitors to Hever. The award is based on a postal ballot of the association's 12,000 "friends".

Doug Goodyer, the head gardener and the fourth generation of his family to work on the estate, said: "At this time of year the most spectacular sight is the banks of snowdrops in front of the castle. In the next few weeks we shall see great golden carpets of daffodils. The Astors planted a ton of daffodil bulbs in each of the 80 years they were here."

Another feature of the estate is the Italian garden, with vines climbing over pergolas, arches and waterfalls, and a display of urns, statues, columns and sarcapohagi that Astor collected while American ambassador to Italy in the 1880s.

Hever, near Edenbridge, began life as a 13th-century moated manor house. Two hundred years later it was acquired by the Boleyn family and there Henry VIII courted Anne to make her the second of his six wives. A sheltered enclosure next to the maze known as Anne Boleyn's Garden is kept as it might have looked in Tudor times, with beds of herbs and roses round a fountain. On acquiring Hever, Astor added the "Tudor village", a picturesque jumble of cottages, linked by a covered bridge across the moat to the castle, where he housed the family, guests and servants. The complex is now hired out as a conference centre.

The grounds were laid out between 1904 and 1908 but are only now reaching maturity. Trees were transported to the estate from Ashdown Forest, 12 miles away, and 800 men were employed to dig a 35-acre lake, which took them two years. There are 35 acres of ornamental gardens, 100 acres of grass and a 16-acre arboretum. The Astors, who owned *The Times* from 1922 to 1966, sold the estate in 1983 to John and Faith Guthrie, who run a Yorkshire-based property company.

☐ *Gardens open daily from March 1 to November 30, 11am to 6pm (4pm from October). Castle opens at noon. Admission for adults: £6 for castle and gardens, £4.40 for gardens only. Discounts for children and pensioners.*

Gardening, Weekend page 4

Growers plan return to days of wine and roses

By Alan Toogood, Horticulture Correspondent

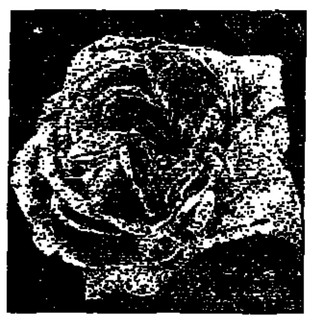
ROSE-GROWERS are attempting to reverse the decline of a flower that once graced almost every garden in the land. In 30 years, annual sales have fallen from 57 million to 17 million.

In an effort to restore the flower to pre-eminence, growers, breeders and retailers have declared 1996 Year of the Rose. Events will open with National Rose Week, from next Saturday, organised by the British Rose Growers Association and the Horticultural Trades Association.

Robert Boswijk, of the growers' association, said that many people avoided roses, fearing they required a lot for work, "but pruning has been simplified and modern kinds of roses are far less prone to diseases."

Gardens are smaller these days, and roses have faced keen competition from the range of other plants now available from garden centres, particularly flowering shrubs, such as potentillas and viburnums. "Roses are just as good if not better value," Mr Boswijk said. "A £5 rose will last for 25 years and will bloom from June until the first frosts."

The future lies with new varieties of rose, better adapted to less spacious circumstances than those of old.


The Gertrude Jekyll, bred by David Austin

Dwarf, cluster-flowered patio roses account for 25 per cent of the market. Climbers and ramblers have 18 per cent. The hybrid teas and floribundas, large flowered and cluster-flowered, make up 25 per cent. The remainder of the market is shared by miniature, shrub, English and ground-cover roses. Miniatures, tailor-made for containers, include climbers such as "Good As Gold". The smaller ground-cover roses are also suitable for containers.

The modern shrub roses, larger plants suitable for mixed borders, flower throughout the summer. Rose-breeders have produced hybrids that combine the fragrance and flower shape of the old with the health, vigour and recurrent flowering of the new. David Austin, of Wolverhampton, has produced many cultivars, such as the rich pink "Gertrude Jekyll".

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seasons
Page 5

THE TIMES
CAR 96

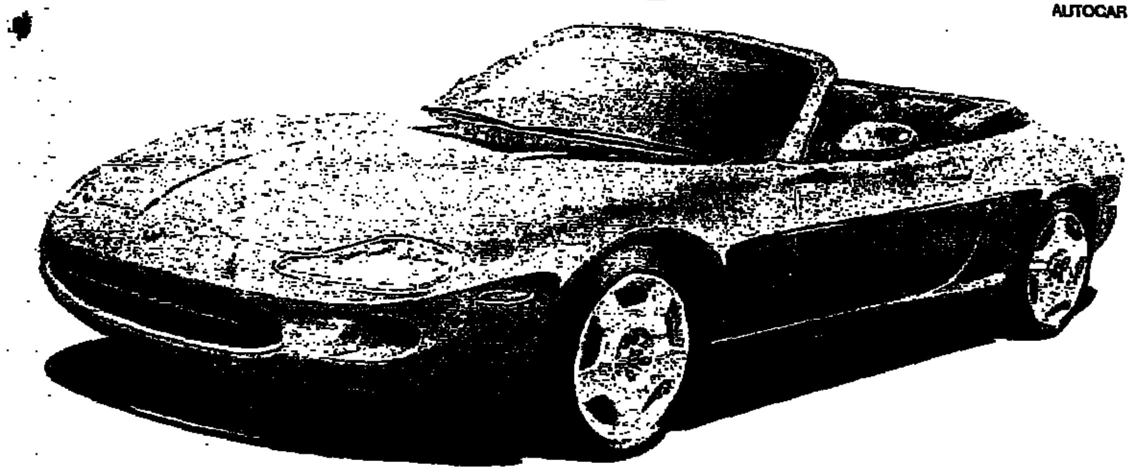
Flying
wife who
wins in
a pink
Peugeot
Page 3

SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

Vaughan Freeman on the 160mph car designed for women by women

Jaguar's XK8, the female of the species

AUTOCAR



Female-friendly: Jaguar predicts that up to a quarter of the £45,000-plus XK8s will be bought by women

Sex-on-wheels sports cars that cost more than £40,000 and top 150mph usually go hand-in-stringback-glove with hairy chests, oil-grimed nails and a large dollop of aggressive male hormones — but not any longer.

Jaguar's XK8, direct descendant of the sports XJS and spiritual successor to the E-type phallus, has been designed and crafted by women, and will be targeted at women by female Jaguar marketing and promotion executives.

The XK8 will take centre stage when it is unveiled at next week's Geneva Motor Show. Jaguar plans to build 12,000 in the first year of full production and will eventually sell up to 16,000 a year worldwide.

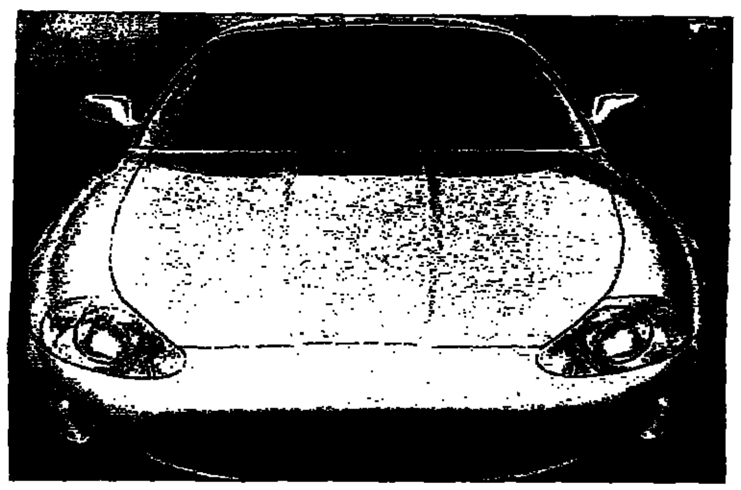
The company predicts that up to a quarter of all XK8s will be bought by women, and in the vital North American market that figure will be more than a third.

The challenge has been to make this 300bhp, 4-litre, 32-valve V8 sports car "female-friendly" without turning it into a "girlie" car disdained by ego-fragile males. Performance will better that of the Mercedes-Benz SL500, which means a top speed of 160mph and a 0-60mph time of under six seconds. When it goes on sale in October it will be priced between £45,000 and £50,000.

Jaguar chairman Nick Scheele says: "The car will be particularly attractive to professional women who are out to make a statement. Women don't buy cars because they are a pretty pastel shade. They buy cars because they deliver what they want, and right from day one on the XK8 project we have had a number of women on the team.

"With their input we have ensured there is enough clearance around door pulls and release catches so that they can be used without breaking nails. The handbrake has been designed so that it does not snag on skirts, radio buttons can be used comfortably by slender fingers. Door clearances have been designed so that a woman wearing a skirt or a dress can get in and out without difficulties."

The XK8 is the result of nearly three years work by a 30-strong Jaguar team led by chief designer Geoff Lawson. The same people were behind the present XJ6 saloon series, voted most beautiful car in the world by the Italians, as well as the XJ220 supercar.



Good-looker: from the same design team that produced the XJ6 saloon

THE NEW BUYERS

- ● Women are the new power in car buying, according to the latest figures from the Lex Report on Motoring. Researchers discovered women bought more new cars last year than men — a fact underlined by manufacturers.
- ● Women account for 63 per cent of sales of the Tigra, Vauxhall's coupé obviously appealing to feminine instincts. The buyers are typically aged between 25 and 40, have a professional or managerial job, enjoy fitness, travel and entertaining and list style as a key reason for their choice.
- ● And even when a man buys a car, his wife or girlfriend is likely to play a key part.

The man with specific responsibility for styling the XK8 is Fergus Pollock who has worked full time on the car since programme approval was given. A separate engineering team has been working to develop a new V8 engine based on a design from parent company Ford and to adapt it for the Jaguar, a departure from the V12s or straight six cylinder engines for which the company is renowned.

Jaguar executive Amanda Chick, who is in charge of the multi-million pound marketing budget for the XK8, said: "We played with the cars and told the engineers if, for example, switches were too difficult to use if you have got nails. We gave them our first-hand views and the designers were good in recognising how important ladies are. With all our cars we have to consider the lady's point of view. Around the world more ladies are driving Jaguars and we recognise that thay have a big influence on what their partner buys and drives."

Women-only driving events, run in conjunction with Clarins skin care so that female customers can drive and "get pampered", plus ladies' golf days, will be a central marketing tool once the XK8 goes on sale.

Promotions manager Elizabeth Baker believes the beauty of the car, and the way its power is made manageable, will prove a winner for men and women: "The XK8 is very driveable for a female, very comfortable and not hard work at all. A lot of work has gone into the ergonomics to make sure that drivers, male or female, whatever their weight or size or height, can find a comfortable driving position in it.

"We need to recognise that there are a lot of successful professional ladies that would drive this car, and this is an opportunity we need to take advantage of without excluding males."

Karen Anderson, who heads the car's design and trim team, has been at the sharp end in making the car attractive to everyone. "I have been trying to emphasise the car's shape, one of the features that make it appealing to the two sexes," she said. "It harks back to the E-type in its shape and has more of a unisex look, away from hard edges, and is more feminine, but without any loss of the car's aggressive stance."

MARTIN BEDDALL

Karen Anderson: "It harks back to the E-type in its shape and is more feminine, but without any loss of the car's aggressive stance"

Anderson and her team have developed new ranges of metallic and pearlescent colours for the car to give customers, especially women, as wide a choice as possible. Inside, lighter shades have been introduced, although, says Anderson, the classic, traditional Jaguar leather and wood trim has always been popular with women.

"I don't think anybody is going to see the XK8 as a female car," she added. "It has got a presence about it and it makes a statement, and that statement is that this is the car that is going to take Jaguar into the next century."

Jaguar finance director Bibiana Boerio, who heads the XK8 sales campaign, had huge fun while test-driving the car and feeding her impressions back to the engineers. Producing a new car is a complex and costly business, but for Boerio, Jaguar's latest venture brought to her job huge fun.

"Making sure things go right for the customer does not mean putting a pink colour in for the women and being condescending," she said. "I just want my car to go like hell and be safe and secure, offer good comfort and go well round the curves. I am an enthusiastic driver. I recall one stretch of road when I was driving the XK8 and we were behind a truck for quite some time.

"There was an open stretch leading up to a curve and I was able to overtake, and the feeling as the accelerator and the whole powertrain combined was really smooth, quick and responsive. I just thought 'Oh wow!'."

Male or female, it is that "Oh wow!" factor, for looks and performance, that will decide whether or not XK8 is worthy successor to the E-Type heritage.

And why XK8? Jaguar searched long and hard for the right name for its new car. The F-type (following the E-type) was ruled out because Ferrari already has a couple of "F" cars.

The letters XK have adorned some of the fastest and best looking Jaguars in the past. So the letters carry on Jaguar's sports heritage, while the 8 is a tribute to the engine, Jaguar's first V8 even if it is built at Ford's Bridgend plant in South Wales.

Would you describe a Picasso as second-hand?

Mercedes-Benz
Used Cars

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**

A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks with contraflow between Hilary Road in Acton and the Northern roundabout in White City.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over the Lea Valley Viaduct.

A406 North Circular Road, Finchley. Major roadworks continue with various restrictions between the A1 and A1000 junctions.

A12 Eastern Avenue, Wanstead. Construction of M11 link road continues, with eastbound reduced to a single lane between the Redbridge roundabout and High Street.

A243 Leatherhead Road, Chessington. Closed northbound for major roadworks outside the Chessington World of Adventures. Lengthy diversions cause delays back to junction 9 of the M25 at peak times.

A4 Great West Road, Chiswick. Between 9pm and 6am Monday-Thursday nights reduced to one lane each way for repairs to the crumbling elevated section of the M4 above.

● **SOUTH-EAST**

M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 cause lengthy tailbacks daily.

M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane closures and contraflows between junctions 6 and 8 and junctions 9 and 10.

M1 Hertfordshire. Resurfacing and widening work on northbound exit at junction 6. The sliproad is sometimes closed overnight, with diversions via junction 5 and the A41.

A247 Surrey. Road works on the street between Clandon Station and Clandon Park. Long delays expected.

A509 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on the Wellingborough Road in Olney, at junction with Lavendon Road.

A264 Sussex. Delays expected through East Grinstead town centre due to roadworks on Holtye Road, Portland Land and Moat Road.

A249 Kent. Major works at the Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne often cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and Kingsferry Bridge.

A36 Hampshire. Bridge repairs at Wellow, north-west of Southampton.

● **SOUTH-WEST**

M4/M5 Avon. Work on the second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust interchanges, and also on the M5 around junction 18.

M32 Avon. Contraflow for major roadworks between junctions 1 and 2. Southbound entry slip at junction 1, is also closed off peak.

A4 Avon. Lane restrictions and temporary lights over the Newbridge Bridge, Bath.

M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs with lane closures both ways between junctions 21 and 22.

A40 Gloucestershire. Golden Valley Bypass (between Gloucester and Cheltenham) reduced to a single lane each way over junction 11 of the M5.

A30 Cornwall. Roadworks and a contraflow near Bolventor.

A377 Devon. Roadworks continue around Eggesford, between Exeter and Barnstaple, with temporary lights around the clock.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

M6 West Midlands. Major roadworks continue between junctions 5 and 6 with lane restrictions in both directions.

A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of the M1 and Sawley Island.

M69 Leicestershire. Link road from the M69 to M1 northbound closed at junction 21. A short diversion is in operation via the roundabout.

A1 Nottinghamshire. Roadworks on the Apley Head roundabout near Worksop (junction with the A57 and A614) cause peak-time delays.

A47 Norfolk. Two sets of major roadworks: at Terrington St John and at Swaffham.

A11 Norfolk. Construction of Wymondham bypass continues, with lane and speed restrictions between Hethersett and Attleborough.

M6 Staffordshire. North and southbound entry sliproads on to motorway closed at junction 11 while work is carried out on the A460.

● **NORTH**

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at the end of the motorway at junction 47.

M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 21.

M6 Greater Manchester. Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 24 and 26.

A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Trafford Road near junction with Pomona Strand.

A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Canklow, between junction 33 of the M1 and Rotherham.

A167M Tyneside. Northbound lane closures on the Newcastle central motorway near the Jesmond Road interchange.

● **WALES**

M4 Gwent. Widening work continues in connection with the second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.

A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

A483 West Glamorgan. Major roadworks and contraflow on Fabian Way, Swansea between Elba Crescent and the Earlswood lights.

A4229 Mid Glamorgan. Roadworks and temporary lights between Cornelly and Porthcawl.

A547 Gwynedd. Bridge repairs with temporary lights near the A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.

● **SCOTLAND**

M8 Strathclyde. Westbound exit at junction 27 (Arkleston) closed. An alternative route can be taken via junction 26 or junction 29.

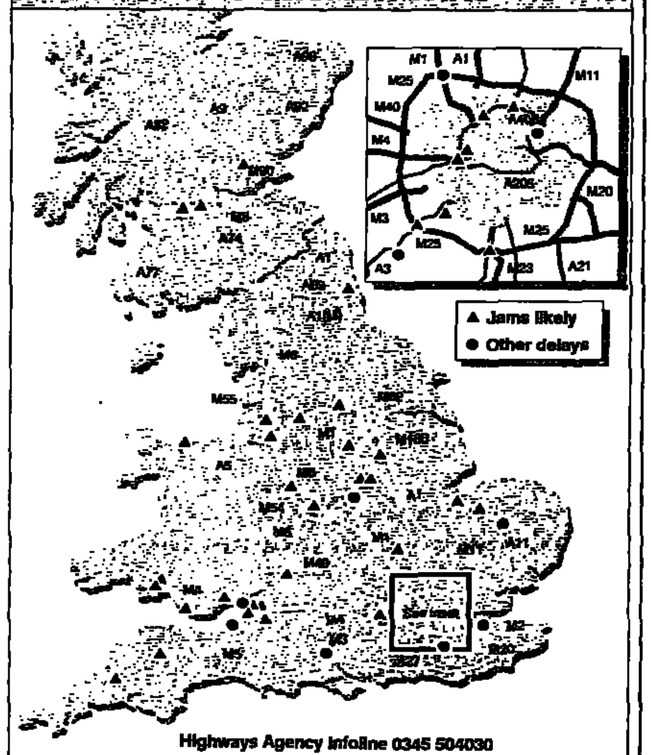
A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge in Glasgow is closed southbound.

M90 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**

County Tyrone. Roadworks on the Omagh Bypass at the junction with Derry Road.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Write level

THE PASS mark for the new written section of the driving test which comes into effect on July 1 will be 26 correct answers out of 35, the Driving Standards Association announced this week. The British School of Motoring has set up a freephone hotline to answer any queries and anxieties about the new test: 0800 700 800. Its instructors are undergoing special training to help learners with the new requirements.

At the hirer's risk

SPOT CHECKS on vans for hire have revealed many dangerous faults, according to the RAC. Vans hired in Plymouth, Manchester and Cardiff had faults including large rust holes in bodywork and major problems with brakes and suspensions. The tests, carried out with *Auto Express*, also revealed that many companies failed to complete paperwork which could cause legal problems. The RAC recommends hiring only from members of the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association.

Esprit GT1 debut

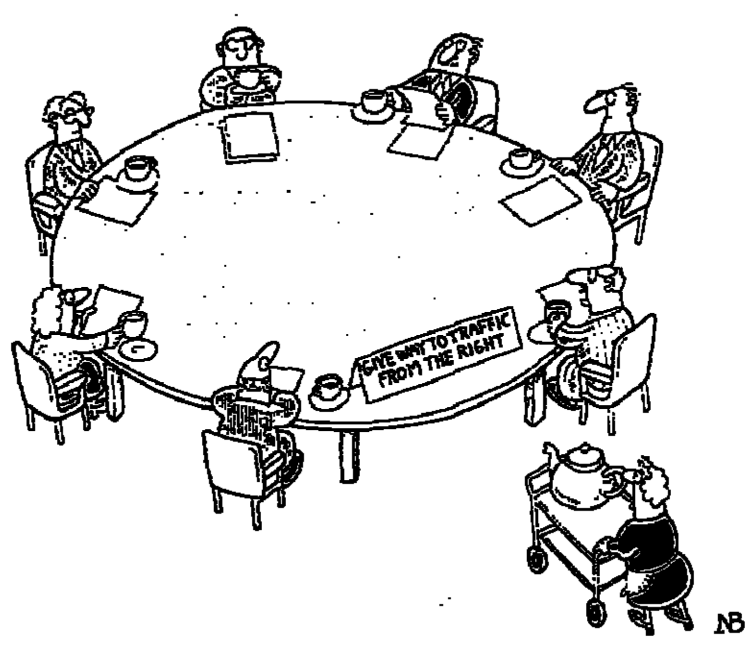
THE ALL-NEW Lotus Esprit GT1 sports racing car, which features the company's new V8 turbo engine, makes its debut in the International GT Championship race at the Paul Ricard circuit in France tomorrow. One car is entered in this first race of the season to be driven by Jan Lammers and Alex Portman.

As the British motorist suffers and the Government does nothing but take the money, there is only one answer

May it please Your Majesty . . .

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard


GIVE WAY TO TRAFFIC FROM THE RIGHT
NB

Sir Richard Scott cannot be the only man on the planet with a briefcase full of double negatives and a personal dictionary in which "determinedly" does not mean the same as "deliberately". I feel sure I speak for the entire motoring public in asserting that our own machine tools — the ones with a wheel at each corner — deserve at least as much attention as anything despatched to Saddam Hussein.

Indeed, we deserve better than a mere inquiry. What we need is a royal commission, no less, and I offer the suggestion on the persuasive basis that it could surely get John Major off the hook at the forthcoming general election.

My thoughts are inspired by a piece on this page last week in which it was demonstrated that not only is the motorist paying the Goverment nearly four times as much as the Government invests in the motorist, but also that our trunk roads are fast heading for a time when we shall all have to get out and start walking.

The situation has been brought about by the human condition, therefore there is no point hoping it will go away. It is a fact of the human condition that the car in front, whether or not it is a Toyota, is driven by a person who ought to be travelling on a train or a bus. But that person is never us. And the plight of the motorist is compounded by the fact that trains and buses are now in private hands, thus they have to make a profit.

The Government appears to see nothing anomalous in a situation where, as we reported last week, for every £10 the car driver spends on fuel, £7.50 goes to the Treasury but only £2 is reinvested in roads. If this principle applied to the television licence, all of which goes to the BBC, there would be uproar. So, in the time-honoured phrase, something must be done.

Bypasses, gridlocks, motorway repairs, petrol costs, road tax, buses, trains, planes and donkey carts . . . all these are liable to get an airing in the election campaign, and no good can come of it for Mr Major. Unless, of course, he is able to say: "Nothing to do with me". And a royal commission is just the body to enable him to say it.

Royal commissions were very fashionable in the 1960s and 1970s but went out of favour with the coming to power of Margaret Thatcher, who knew what was good for us. Now that mere mortals are back in charge, the royal commission's time has come again.

The Royal Commission on Transport would be chaired by a Scott-type and made up of others from among the great and the good, including some people nominated by the political parties (thus giving politicians of all sides no excuse to rubbish the findings). It would be charged with producing, at long last, an integrated transport policy. This would in itself be a huge step forward, for at present there is no discernable policy and such policy as there was has plainly disintegrated.

I hope Mr Major will take up this proposal double-quick, for I am fed up with listening to politicians of all parties taking part in a dialogue of the deaf. This is not the way for a civilised country to resolve the question of the best way to get from A to B.

Aha, you may ask, but what exactly will happen to this commission's report? A good question. This week Professor (now Sir) Colin Buchanan, author of the lauded 1964 report on traffic in towns, was escorted round the city of Bath by a television crew and asked what progress had been made.

Very little, was his conclusion, and very slowly. But for all his eminence, Buchanan lacked the weight of a royal commission, which is why I believe that device would be less easy to sweep under the carpet.

Death toll of waiting for a Euro decision

Laws to give cars better crash protection have been agreed, but only after ten years of arguments. **Kevin Eason** reports

More than 17 people died every day that bureaucrats were unable to agree on life-saving crash legislation to make new cars stronger and safer.

Euro MPs this week finally voted to implement legislation which means all new cars will be forced to pass radical side impact crash tests from October, 1998. But even as motoring organisations claimed victory in their long fight to have the new laws introduced, they pointed to figures which showed thousands of lives lost during the ten years while European Union officials argued over technicalities.

Some nations deliberately employed tactics to hold up the new tests. New laws on frontal impacts are also still not ready to go ahead while Europe argues over details in the legislation, even though motoring organisations calculate that offset crashes cause 65,000 deaths and serious injuries a year.

The French government is thought to have led the decision to put a brake on more extensive testing, although the RAC and Federation Internationale de l'Automobile claim other governments were just as guilty of delay.

Even when the principle of side impacts was accepted by all member governments, officials could not agree at which height a barrier should hit cars for maximum validity. So paperwork was passed around Brussels and meetings took place over years — at the same time that lives were being lost.

The RAC claims that 650 people die in side impact collisions annually in Britain, and 6,500 in Europe while there are 18,500 serious injuries. Europe currently has no legislation for side impacts in which vehicles and objects smash through car doors and into the cabin. When that happens, seat belts and airbags are of little or no use to driver and passenger.

Motoring organisations have been frustrated by the inability of the European Commission to come to a decision, even though the United States has had a compulsory side impact crash test for some time. That means cars manufactured in Europe and sold in the US have had to pass the severe tests, but cars made and sold here have not had to have any special extra protection by law. Mercedes-Benz, for example, has been putting its cars through side impact testing for years even though it was not required to in Europe.

The FIA, the body which controls world motor racing and has been at the forefront of improvements to safety in grand prix cars, has led the fight for more stringent crash tests in Europe.

Max Mosley, FIA president, condemned "frustration and delays" which have meant that Europe has had no improvements or changes to crash tests for the past 22 years.

"It is ridiculous," he said, "that the only way we test the strength of cars is by smashing them head first into a brick wall. Everyone knows that accidents do not happen that conveniently and that collisions come from the side or are offset at the front. We have to have a test which forces manufacturers to concentrate their minds on making cars safer. We need protection so that if a car is hit from the side by another vehicle, it is not going to come in and crush you."

Alan Donnelly, the MEP who pushed in the European Parliament for tougher testing, condemned the "deliberate delaying tactics by some member states that resulted in years of wasted argument".

He added: "I find it extraordinary that so little information is available to consumers to help them choose cars which protect them and their families. The problem is that governments have been content to work to the lowest common denominator, which has been allowed to hold back improvements over the past 20 years. That is to nobody's credit, although we have finally made progress through the European Parliament."

The strange machinations behind closed doors of the European Community have baffled even the lobbyists from the RAC and FIA. The finger of blame has not pointed firmly at any nation, although there were no doubts that some major carmakers were putting pressure on their governments not to implement the tougher crash regulations.

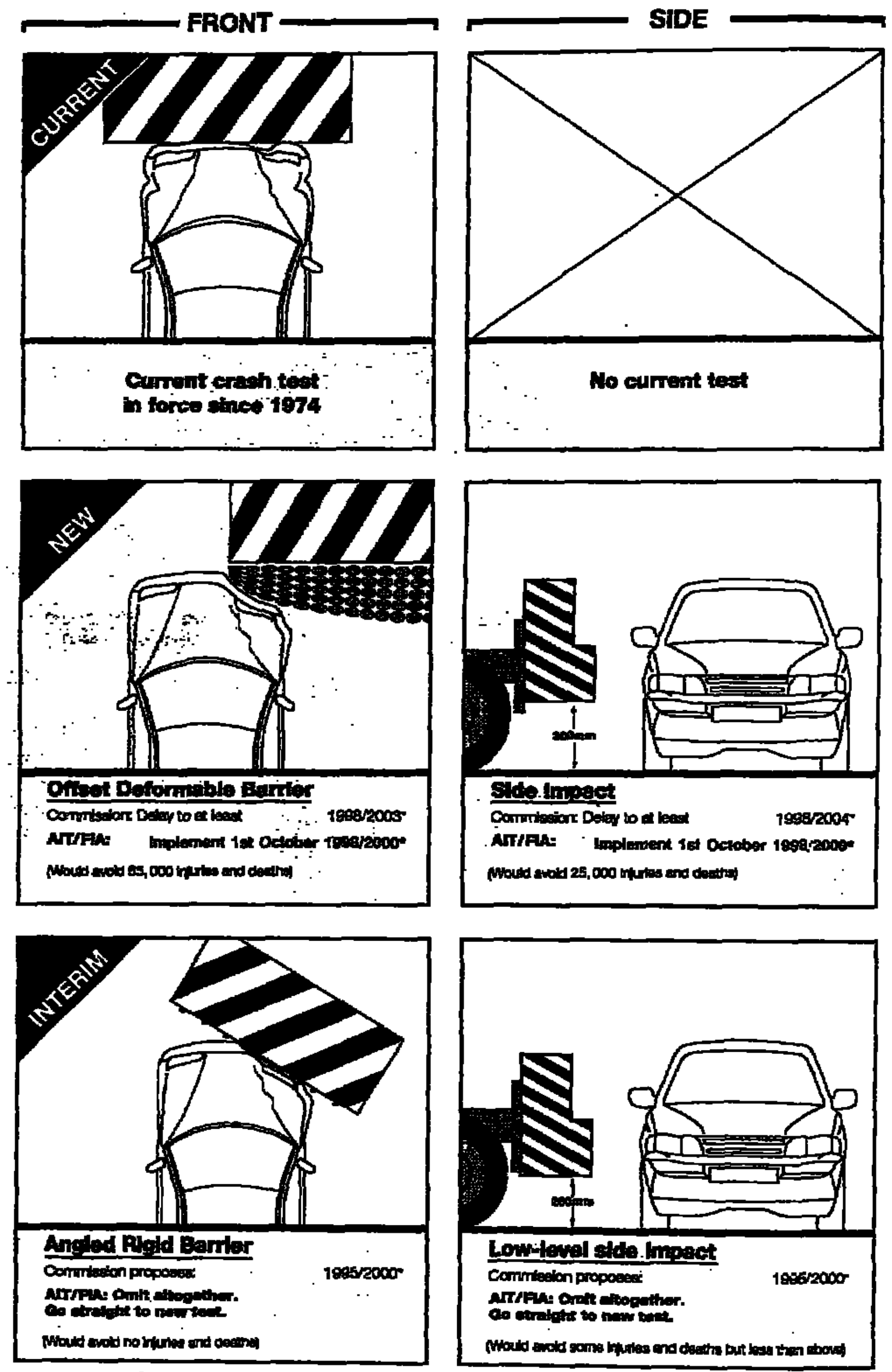
There also seem to be no clear reasons why they should want delays, particularly as an increasingly global industry benefits from having standards to which every company knows it has to conform.

Strengthening current cars to pass tougher side impact tests would be expensive, involving considerable redesigning for some models, but there was no suggestion that legislation would be retrospective to include cars currently in production. Models are already being designed with side protection, such as the Fiat Punto, which Mosley singled out as a small car that could pass the new test. There could be a substantial weight penalty from fitting tough steel beams to doors and frames, resulting in poorer fuel economy. But every manufacturer would face the same penalty and past experience shows that legislation often forces a clever technological solution.

BERGER'S VIEW

GERHARD BERGER, Benetton Formula One driver, helped persuade Euro MPs to vote for the new tests. Bureaucrats argued for an offset crash, and side impact 260mm above ground level (bottom graphic), which cars could pass now.

But experts said the 260mm side test would hit the body sill, not the door, where most damage is done. They have won the 300mm test from 1998, while the head-on test will also be toughened with cars required to hit a deformable barrier, probably from the same date.


FRONT
SIDE
CURRENT
Current crash test in force since 1974
No current test
NEW
300mm
Offset Deformable Barrier
Commission: Delay to at least 1998/2003*
AIT/FIA: Implement 1st October 1998/2000*
(Would avoid 65,000 injuries and deaths)
Side impact
Commission: Delay to at least 1998/2004*
AIT/FIA: Implement 1st October 1998/2000*
(Would avoid 25,000 injuries and deaths)
INTERIM
260mm
Angled Rigid Barrier
Commission proposes: 1995/2000*
AIT/FIA: Omit altogether. Go straight to new test.
(Would avoid no injuries and deaths)
Low-level side impact
Commission proposes: 1996/2000*
AIT/FIA: Omit altogether. Go straight to new test.
(Would avoid some injuries and deaths but less than above)

Current crash tests, top, what officials proposed, bottom, and what will happen, centre

HOW MR BROWN DROVE INTO HISTORY 170 YEARS AGO

IN THIS centenary year of the UK motor industry, a great deal has been written about the pioneers of the late 19th century. But only now has Samuel Brown been mentioned. That is partly because his contribution was made 70 years before the Daimler Company produced its first car in Coventry, *writes Alan Copps*.

As long ago as 1826, Brown, believing that the newfangled steam coaches then appearing on the roads were of limited potential, built his own car using a primitive engine and drove up Shooter's Hill in London. What little is known of his story is told by Richard Sutton in a new book, *Motor Mania*, which accompanies a Channel 4 series starting on Tuesday.

"Brown's achievement, although little documented, was monumental, because he not only succeeded in designing the first internal-combustion engine (using a slow-burning fuel principle rather than an explosion of gas) but also demonstrated it in what was perhaps the world's first automobile," he says.

Unfortunately, the big money was all on steam. Brown's invention was shelved and very little is now known of its engineering principles. It was not until 27 years later that the Italians Eugenio Barsanti, a priest, and Felice Matteuci, an engineer, patented the world's first gas engine, a development of which the Belgian Jean Lenoir used in his carriage that he drove in Paris in 1862. That machine helped to inspire Gottlieb Daimler and Nicholas Otto, who really got the world moving 20 years later.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

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The first Motor Mania programme on Channel 4 is broadcast on Tuesday March 5 at 8pm.

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هكذا من الأصل

The slope was mountainous, the mud horrendous, the drivers nervous . . . **Kevin Eason** watched the results

It can be awfully hard to rise to the occasion

By the time Andrew Pack reached the top, the blood had drained out of his face and into the *muddied* hubcaps of his Vauxhall Frontera. It had all seemed so easy at the start . . . until he looked through his rain-streaked windscreen at the sheer face of mud that confronted him. This was a driver more used to navigating the tricky twists and turns of Sainsbury's car park than something that looked like the North Face of the Eiger covered in glue. It was going to be one of those days.

But Andrew and his wife, Caron, were in good company. Dozens of motorists with four-wheel-drive vehicles, whose only previous experience of off-roading was parking with two wheels on the pavement, were facing 80 miles of stomach-heaving, suspension-graunching rough track.

The Midland Auto Trader 4 Wheel Drive Day is the one chance in the year that they get to do what their cars were designed to do. They turned up in the car park of the Haycock Hotel in Wansford on the outskirts of Peterborough, paid their entrance fee and, with some rigorous advice and careful marshalling, ploughed around the quarries and fields of Cambridgeshire up to their bonnet badges in water and mud for the day.

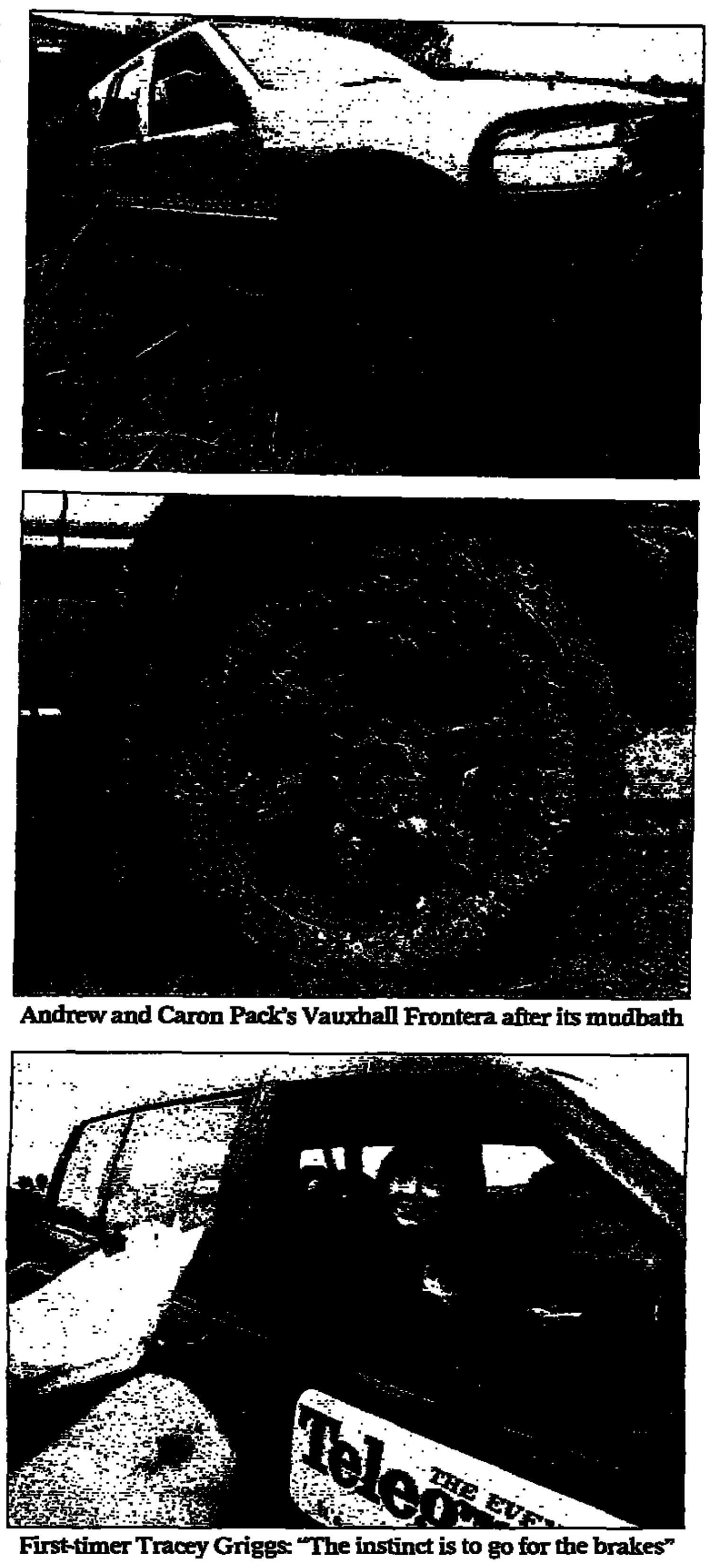
The fact that they were going off road at all was extraordinary enough, for members of the 4x4 tribe are notoriously known as wimps with more money than sense. There is little sadder sight in the world of motoring than owners of cars built like tanks who swoon when their precious upholstery is sullied by as much as a crumb from an errant Digestive.

Even worse are the manufacturers, who build vehicles that look as though they could bulldoze their way through a sheet of steel when the nearest they will get to going off road is on the gravel drive to the front door. In the commercials, their vehicles can go straight up the side of a glacier with the driver *filing his nails and working out* next week's shopping list: in reality, some of these machines struggle to cope with the gradient of a sleeping policeman.

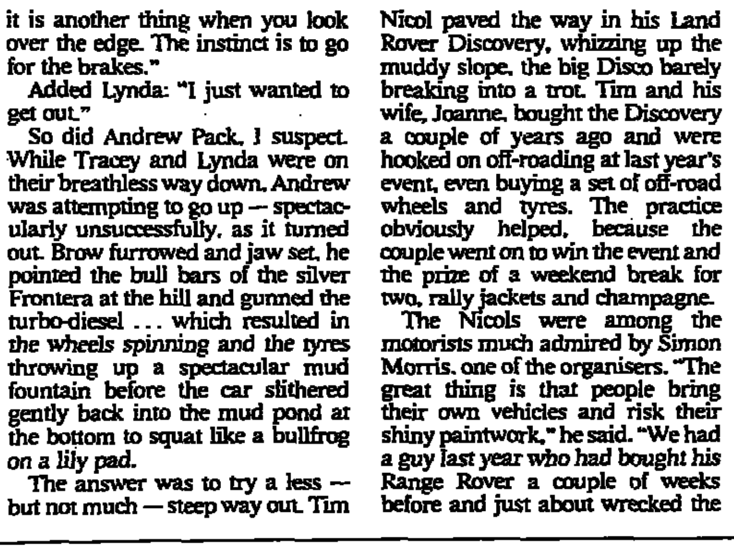
At least the drivers who turned out last week now know what their vehicles can — and, more significantly for some — can't do. And did they get the chance to find out.

The rain was bouncing off the windscreen like mortar shells as they set off for the notorious hill climb. The terrified expressions on the faces of the first-time off-roaders were almost moving, like watching troops about to go over the top on the battlefield of the Somme. The first sheer 50-foot drop was more a test of nerve than skill, simply because the driver had to shove the gearbox into low ratio, select first gear, nose to the precipice and then let the vehicle drop *over the edge — no hands required*, no feet on the pedals.

Tracey Griggs, a first-timer in a Ford Maverick with co-driver Lynda Hodgkinson, admitted that she gulped at that moment: "It is one thing for the instructors to tell you to take your feet off the pedals, but it is another thing when you look over the edge. The instinct is to go for the brakes."



Andrew and Caron Pack's Vauxhall Frontera after its mudbath



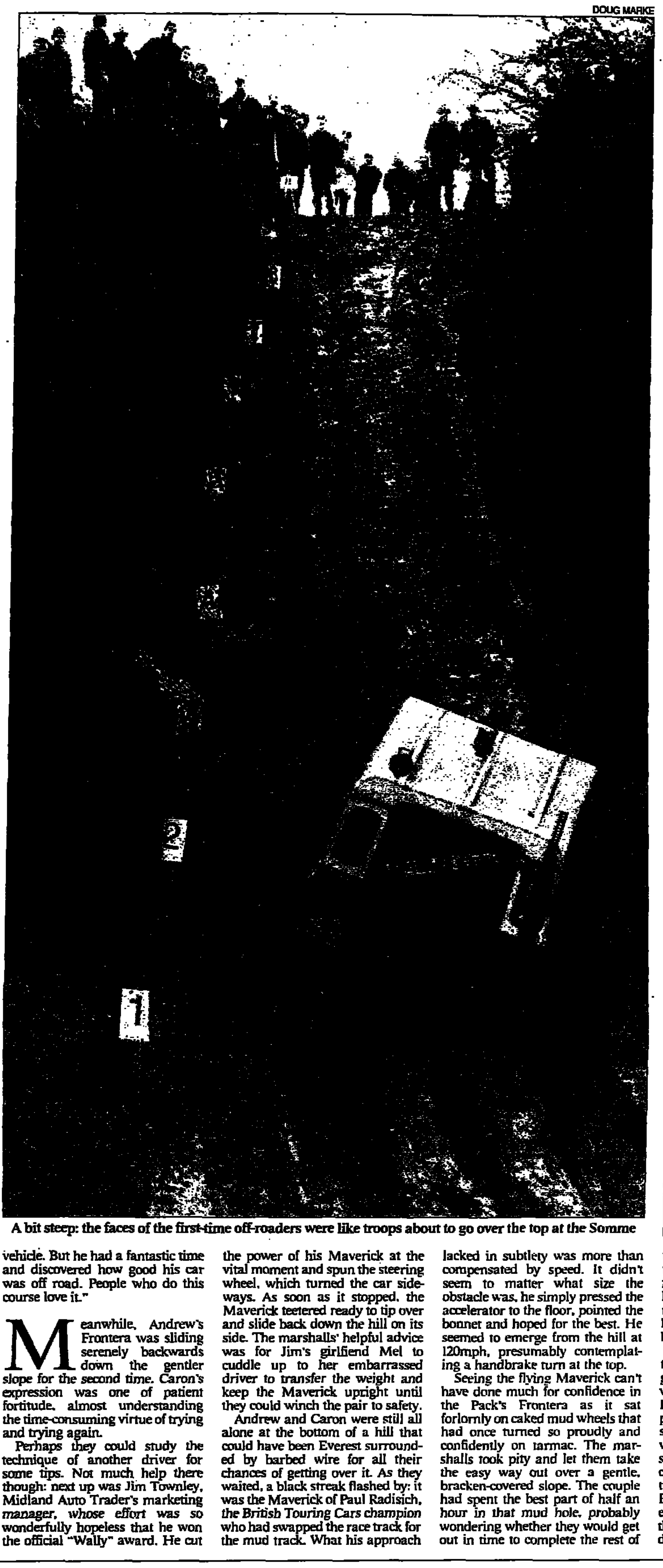
First-timer Tracey Griggs: "The instinct is to go for the brakes"

Added Lynda: "I just wanted to get out."

So did Andrew Pack, I suspect. While Tracey and Lynda were on their breathless way down, Andrew was attempting to go up — spectacularly unsuccessfully, as it turned out. Brow furrowed and jaw set, he pointed the bull bars of the silver Frontera at the hill and gunned the turbo-diesel . . . which resulted in the wheels spinning and the tyres throwing up a spectacular mud fountain before the car slithered gently back into the mud pond at the bottom to squat like a bullfrog *on a lily pad*.

The answer was to try a less — but not much — steep way out. Tim Nicol paved the way in his Land Rover Discovery, whizzing up the muddy slope, the big Disco barely breaking into a trot. Tim and his wife, Joanne, bought the Discovery a couple of years ago and were hooked on off-roading at last year's event, even buying a set of off-road wheels and tyres. The practice obviously helped, because the couple went on to win the event and the prize of a weekend break for two, rally jackets and champagne.

The Nicols were among the motorists much admired by Simon Morris, one of the organisers. "The great thing is that people bring their own vehicles and risk their shiny paintwork," he said. "We had a guy last year who had bought his Range Rover a couple of weeks before and just about wrecked the vehicle. But he had a fantastic time and discovered how good his car was off road. People who do this course love it."



A bit steep: the faces of the first-time off-roaders were like troops about to go over the top at the Somme

Meanwhile, Andrew's Frontera was sliding serenely backwards down the gentler slope for the second time. Caron's expression was one of patient fortitude, almost understanding the time-consuming virtue of trying and trying again.

Perhaps they could study the technique of another driver for some tips. Not much help there though: next up was Jim Townley, Midland Auto Trader's marketing *manager, whose effort was so* wonderfully hopeless that he won the official "Wally" award. He cut the power of his Maverick at the vital moment and spun the steering wheel, which turned the car sideways. As soon as it stopped, the Maverick teetered ready to tip over and slide back down the hill on its side. The marshalls' helpful advice was for Jim's girlfiend Mel to cuddle up to her embarrassed driver to transfer the weight and keep the Maverick upright until they could winch the pair to safety.

Andrew and Caron were still all alone at the bottom of a hill that could have been Everest surrounded by barbed wire for all their chances of getting over it. As they waited, a black streak flashed by: it was the Maverick of Paul Radisich, *the British Touring Cars champion* who had swapped the race track for the mud track. What his approach lacked in subtlety was more than compensated by speed. It didn't seem to matter what size the obstacle was, he simply pressed the accelerator to the floor, pointed the bonnet and hoped for the best. He seemed to emerge from the hill at 120mph, presumably contemplating a handbrake turn at the top.

Seeing the flying Maverick can't have done much for confidence in the Pack's Frontera as it sat forlornly on caked mud wheels that had once turned so proudly and confidently on tarmac. The marshalls took pity and let them take the easy way out over a gentle, bracken-covered slope. The couple had spent the best part of half an hour in that mud hole, probably wondering whether they would get out in time to complete the rest of the four-hour course. By the time they finally reached the top, ashen-faced Andrew looked as though he had seen quite enough of off-roading and would be happy to go back to nice, gentle driving on flat, black stuff.

"That was a struggle," he ventured cheerfully. The temptation to give up must have been overwhelming, but men like Andrew Pack and the 82 off-roaders taking part were obviously made of sterner stuff. Not for them the wimp's way out, sitting tall in the saddle in the High Street but cowering on the prairie. Andrew tugged at his hat, threw the Frontera back into gear and pointed its nose to *rejoin* the convoy over the 79 more miles of hill, mud and dale before the finish line.

MUD PACK

At the top and bottom of the slopes

IF YOU want to be King of the Hill, choose wisely. The *4x4 market is divided into* Gladiators and cars that get sand kicked into their windscreens. The Midland Auto Trader jaunt separated six-stone weaklings from cars that really could tackle mud and mountains. So here is the *Car 96* guide to the best off-roaders.

- **LAND ROVER DEFENDER:** V8-powered, short wheelbase Defenders clambered up gradients that looked beyond everything else except goats. If you are serious about off-roading, the Defender is the original, and remains King of the Mud. Prices — £15,803 to £20,821.
- **LAND ROVER DISCOVERY:** Next best thing, but comes with luxuries and legroom. Ignore Japanese imitations. Prices, £18,676 to £29,335.
- **RANGE ROVER:** Should be too effete for mud-plugging, but will go anywhere while driver and passengers recline in *gorgeous comfort, fantastic* stereo blaring and drinks chilling in the boot. Nothing else like it, but you need Nick Leeson's chequebook. Prices, £40,000 to £45,550.
- **MITSUBISHI SHOGUN:** A fine competitor for Range Rover, but lacking the same aura. Includes short wheelbase version in the line-up, although 3.5 V6 one to go for. Prices, £18,879 to £36,789.
- **ISUZU TROOPER/ VAUXHALL MONTEREY:** Same vehicle, different badges. Second best but capable and cheap, if uncharismatic. Prices, Isuzu: £17,999 to £24,798; Vauxhall: £21,675 to £27,185.
- **VAUXHALL FRONTERA:** Big, butch and about as tough off road as Julian Clary. *Ask Andrew Pack.* Prices, £14,695 to £19,995.
- **DAIHATSU FOURTRAK/ SPORTRAK:** For those that can't afford the real thing. *Cheap and cheerful.* Prices, £9,995 to £17,495.
- **SUZUKI VITARA:** Only fashion victims need apply. About as appealing as *white stilettos and denim skirt* — and about as much use in the mud. Prices, £9,750 to £15,475.

The hand that rocks the cradle goes into higher gear in the fast lane

Helen Mound meets Shelly Taunt, Wiltshire's Flying Housewife and fast-rising star of British rallying

On weekdays, 28-year-old Shelly Taunt is a soft-spoken housewife and mother from Wiltshire. At weekends she swaps her apron for motorsport overalls, climbs behind the wheel of a bright pink Peugeot 205 and thrashes her way through forests and across *fields*.

In spite of having a 19-month-old son, Stefan, to look after, Shelly is rapidly becoming one of Britain's top rally successes, although after giving up her job as a van driver when he arrived, taking up rally driving and competing in the same top rallies as World Champion, Colin McRae, was about as likely as a date with Kevin Costner.

"Rallying was *the furthest* thing from my mind when Stefan was born, but here I am, my second year rallying and it's brilliant," she laughs.

She infiltrated the male-dominated sport last year by entering a competition held by a corporate motorsport entertainment *company*, Shropshire Rally School, and won a scholarship to compete in seven events. With no experience, the woman who has become the "Flying Housewife" came home with some incredible results, including a victory in the final round of the Teleflorist Ladies Championship. The reward was a drive in the school's bright pink Ford Escort Cosworth and an entry in last year's biggest rally event, the Network Q RAC Rally.

Shelly is clearly elated by her new-found talent. Unfortunately, she had to retire on the second day of the RAC last year because of mechanical problems. The young housewife, *with only seven* rallies under her belt, might have been 95 places behind the winner, McRae, but she started in 171st position; had the car lasted the whole week, her team is certain Shelly could have pulled off a remarkable placing.

"That's why I have to have another go this year," she says. Supported by a host of sponsors, from Do-It-All to her local life insurance company, Shelly is set to take the 1996 rally scene by storm. Providing she does well, the rally school has promised her another drive in the Escort Cosworth at this year's RAC.

Her second rally season started last weekend alongside *co-driver, Alison Winstanley,* at the Bournemouth National Winter Rally where she displayed the same exceptional driving skills she showed last year. Competing in the British National Mintex/Teleflorist Ladies Championship, she came second in her class and won *the first round of the* Teleflorist Coupe des Dames.

Her victory was achieved against the odds with the car suffering a multitude of ailments. "As we crossed the start line on the Bournemouth seafront, the weather turned nasty. We were worried about waves coming *on to the road*, my wipers weren't working and the rev counter and fuel gauge were broken," she says. "I couldn't see a thing. The tarmac stages weren't too bad but the puddles in the forests were terrible, covering the car in muddy water, and, with no *wipers, there was no way I* could see where I was going. We were just guessing.

Alison Winstanley, left, and Shelly Taunt: "Rallying was the furthest thing from my mind when Stefan was born"

"Without the rev counter, I just had to wait for the engine to scream before I changed up a gear and towards the end of the rally, I wasn't sure if we'd *make it* because I had no idea how much fuel we had left. "Oh, and the spot lights weren't working either."

"You can't expect an easy ride. At least we didn't have any punctures and we got a lot of help from spectators pushing us when we got stuck," she adds. "I'm chuffed to pieces with the result and even happier that it was an all-female crew that beat so many male competitors."

Shropshire Rally School has found not one, but two lady *drivers that could be the* fastest women on wheels in the country. Last weekend's rally might have been tougher for Shelly if team-mate Debbie Garlic had been competing. But the school's number two driver could only enjoy the *event as a spectator* because her Peugeot 106 Rallye — also bright pink — wasn't ready.

"It's a shame I missed the *first rally because it's my local* event and I know the route," says Debbie. The 22-year-old student's driving caught the school's attention last year and she was asked to join its ladies' team alongside Shelly. She says: "I haven't got very far in events in the past because I was privately funded and the money was tight."

Debbie has not had as much experience in rallying as most of the drivers she is up against — one season in a Peugeot 309 GTi two years ago and a few events last year in a Vauxhall Astra GSi — but there will be plenty of competition with Shelly at the next rally at Greenwich on March 30.

"I haven't worked in a team before with drivers in the same class, so I think there's going to be a lot of competition between us."

But Debbie knows she is up against seriously quick competition in the shape of Shelly. She says: "If there are team orders and I have to stand aside for Shelly, then I will."

And she might have hit the brakes and turn into a layby quick to get out of the way of that other speeding pink Ford — because *the "Flying Housewife"* is gunning to get past the best of the men.

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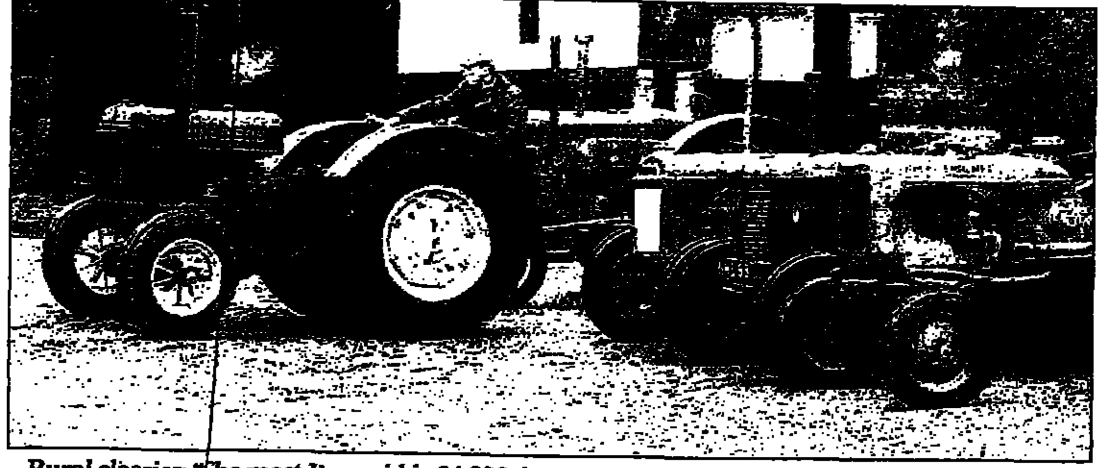
When Martin Brown was eight he drove his first tractor and discovered a passion. **Stuart Birch** reports

A collector who is buying his boyhood back


Rural classics: "The most I've paid is £4,000, but a rare type might make £20,000," says Martin

Happiness for Martin Brown is a tractor. Any tractor. It's been like that for half a century and now he has a veritable family *of them. At the age of eight, while* his school friends were collecting Dinky toys and tinplate model vehicles, he was already into the real thing.

"We lived in Worcestershire and I loved watching the farmers using their *machinery. One day our* farmer neighbour said, 'Can you drive a tractor'. He obviously needed help, so I said yes!"

Martin clambered on to the old, Fordson N, struggled with the controls for a moment then set off: "It was towing a binder, which the farmer operated. I was terrified, but I'd ridden on tractors before so I knew pretty well what to do. Also, my father had let me drive his Ford Anglia, so I understood the rudiments of a clutch and gearbox."

Today it is illegal for a child under 13 to drive a tractor on the land, but in the 1940s, health and safety regulations were a shade more lax. The adventure ended without disaster: Martin Brown had become a tractor driver. But in the process he had caught tractoritis, for *which, in his case,* a cure is neither sought nor likely.

In the years that followed, Martin drove every type of tractor he could find. To him, the barns around his home were like giant toy cupboards. Behind their doors lay chugging, nobbly-tyred delights: "My mother was a bit apprehensive, but my father didn't object and I was completely happy out there in the fields.

"I learnt the art of not stalling the engine, there were few self-starters in those days and I was too small to restart it by hand and the walk back to the farm could be miles."

Fifty years later, Martin can relive those bucolic days. While many men of his age might dabble in a little nostalgic collecting to remind themselves of childhood — perhaps of those diecast Dinky or tinplate toys — he collects tractors. Real ones, of course. "I want to collect all the tractors I drove between the age of eight and 21. I have a couple of duplicates, but I still need another four."

The 13, all in working order, are lined up in an Essex barn, their years of serious ploughing and pulling and mud-plugging behind them. Now they are cherished, even *loved. For, like classic* cars, there are classic tractors, and a collector may wax as lyrical about a Minneapolis Moline or a grey "Fergie" as a car buff about a Ferrari or Aston Martin.

"This is a pretty modest collec*tion. I know a farmer who has 45,"* says Martin as he prepares to start the 8.2-litre engine of an American John Deere by turning its giant, side-mounted flywheel. The engine has only two massive cylinders and emits sounds of mechanical flatulence as it strains into life. Like many of his tractors, it is started on petrol and switched to paraffin.

Martin began collecting when he decided he would like a Fordson N, identical *to the one he had first driven as a boy.* Working for Ford Tractor Operations and later becoming UK Sales Manager of Ford New Holland, he had a network of contacts and was tipped off about a Fordson in Denbigh, North Wales.

It turned out to be a sort of friend of the family. Well past its final plough-by date, it was supported on *blocks, its engine seized.* But owner John Emlyn Williams didn't really want to sell: "I sat with his family, drinking tea, eating scones and talking of this tractor as if it were a person. In the end, we agreed on a price of £50."

That was the beginning. Then Martin thought he would like an example of the second tractor he had driven . . . and the third . . . and the fourth . . . Some were bought privately, some at auction. "The most I've paid is £4,000, but a rare type, such as a Saunderson, might make £20,000. There was a time when classic cars were always being found in barns, but the search is also *on for* old tractors in good condition. I discovered a 1947 Fordson E27N like that — I just saw the exhaust pipe sticking up in the gloom of a barn."

Fordsons dominated the scene in those days: in Second World War Britain, the models made in Dagenham accounted for 90 per cent of all tractors on the land. There are two models that he drove in those early days that he especially wants to find: a John Deere AR, a 2-cylinder, petrol/paraffin model with a hand clutch imported from the United States in the mid 1930s, and an Allis Chalmers U, a 4-cylinder, petrol/paraffin model dating from the 1940s. It was an American-designed machine but only small numbers were used in Britain.

He has an Allis Chalmers B, a *small tractor commonly used for* rowcrop cultivation, but the U was a heavy plough tractor which could also be used for driving a threshing machine via its belt pulley.

There is an enormous choice of tractor types to collect. Many have truly evocative names, such as Platypus Bogmaster, Big Bull, Lanz Bulldog and Yeoman of England; some sound plain and simple like the Nuffield Universal, while others have an elegant image: Imperial, Hornsby-Ackroyd, Citroën-Kegresse, and the tongue-twisting combination, Hofherr-Schrant-Clayton-Shuttleworth.

A few years ago, some shrewd dealing could see a handsome profit turned on a classic tractor. Now, says *Martin, that's unlikely,* although he believes the market is coming back: "But how *nice* to put your money into a handsome tractor which is also great fun to use — I drive mine in half a dozen shows a year — instead of tucking it away in a building society with a low interest rate. You shouldn't lose money on a tractor. They are basically simple pieces of machinery and spare parts are generally obtainable and not expensive."

Some have hidden talents, too: "As a child, I went out to the fields one day on a Case LA — the second tractor I drove — and the farmer I was working for brought along some fresh eggs. I thought we were going to eat them raw, but at lunchtime he closed the tractor's radiator blind, drove up and down the field to get the water boiling, stopped, produced a little wire basket, removed the radiator cap, and popped them inside. We had boiled eggs for lunch."

It was one of the nicer surprises of Martin Brown's young life.

PETER TRIEVNOR

"I want to collect all the tractors I drove between the age of eight and 21. I have a couple of duplicates, but I still need another four"

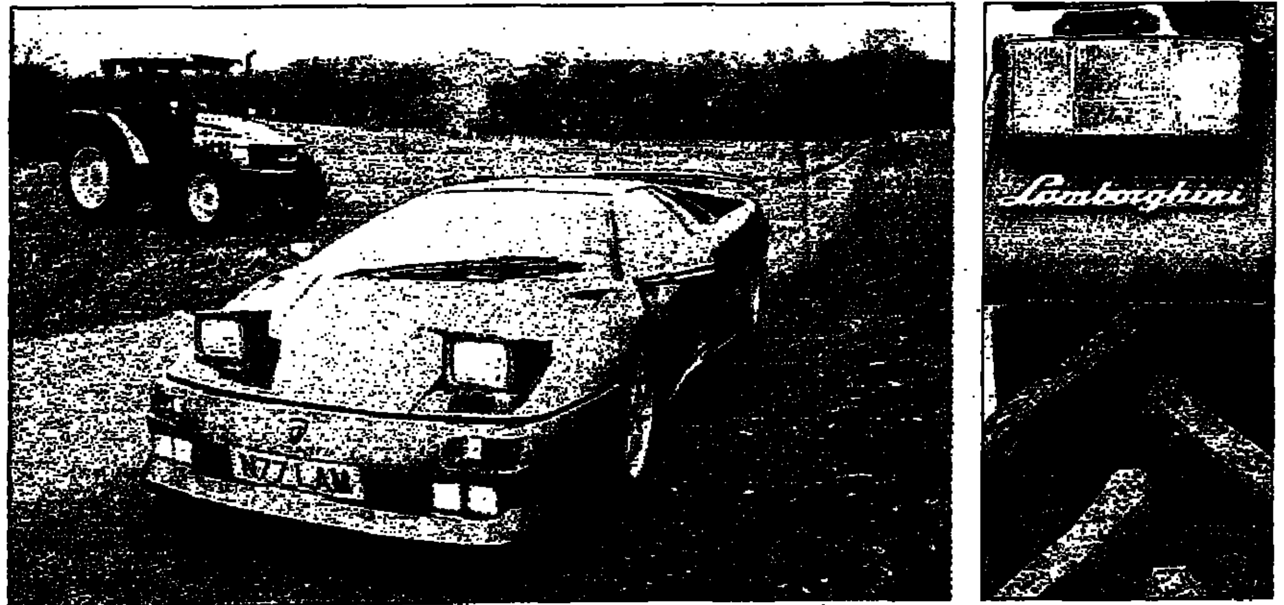
TRACTOR FACTS

- THE world's original tractor is generally accepted to have been made by the Charter Gas Engine Company of Illinois in 1889. It had a single-cylinder petrol engine and metal wheels.
- THE first mass-produced tractor was the 1917 Fordson F.
- LARGE rear wheels give tractors maximum grip on rough and muddy ground while the small front wheels provide a tight turning circle and lighter steering.
- BRITAIN's first commercially-successful tractor was the Hornsby-Ackroyd built in Grantham, Lincolnshire.
- SALES of tractors in the UK last year totalled 20,079. The most succesful manufacturers include Massey Ferguson, New Holland Ford/Fiat, John Deere and Case.
- A HARD-used tractor will typically clock up 1,500 hours a year and spend three years with its first owner.
- UNTIL the 1950s tractors were mainly petrol and paraffin powered. Diesel engines are almost universal today for added pulling power with economy.
- RADAR is used on some modern tractors to measure the amount of land covered, work output and to detect wheelslip.
- SOME tractor gearboxes have up to 60 gears, 20 of them in reverse.
- ONE OF the most powerful tractors on the UK market is the Versatile New Holland 9680, which costs £107,000.

Some farmers really can tell people: 'My other tractor's a Lamborghini'

Helen Mound explains how one of the world's most glamorous cars began its life in a pile of junk metal

KEITH WHITMORE



The 1050 Premium tractor and the Diablo SE share an Italian ancestor — and the tractors outsell the cars in Britain

COMPARISONS

Lamborghini
Diablo SE
Price: £175,000;
Engine: V12 5700cc, 520 bhp.
Performance: Top speed, 206mph; 0-62mph in 4 seconds.
Economy: 18mpg at best.

Lamborghini 1050 Premium
Price: £40,000 (approx).
Engine: 4-cylinder 4000cc turbo, 103bhp.
Performance: Top speed, 25mph.
Economy: Measured in hours, not miles.

Sumptuous curves and the huge burbling engine single out the machine *is coming from the stable of one one of the most exotic of* carmakers. Except this machine has truck-size wheels, one seat and usually pulls a plough — *it is* a Lamborghini tractor.

The company's charging bull badge is famous for being attached to the sloping bonnets of some of the world's quickest cars, monsters that batter the tarmac at speeds up to 200mph.

But the Lamborghini *dynasty* started in the humble surroundings of Italian fields, turning the sod for generations of farmers. Myth has it that Ferruccio Lamborghini only started building sports cars after being snubbed by the man also busy building an Italian engineering dynasty, Enzo Ferrari. Lamborghini bought a Ferrari that was less than reliable, so the legend goes, and turned up at the Maranello factory, demanding to see Enzo himself. Ferrari refused, leaving Lamborghini, then a successful industrialist, fuming and vowing to take revenge by making even greater cars.

Lamborghini was born into a farming family and made tion of junk for his parents' farm. That was just after the Second World War when demand for workhorse vehicles was at its height.

Even on honeymoon, his eyes were on the scrapped vehicles he could use to make more tractors. Instead of moonlight and romance with his new wife, he watched British forces in Italy disposing of a fleet of light armoured cars. Calling an abrupt end to the honeymoon, he took some of the armoured cars (and his bride) home and set about *converting* them into small tractors.

They might have been slightly "Heath Robinson" but were so tough that Lamborghini regularly challenged other mechanics to tugs-of-war with their tractors to test which was the most powerful. Lamborghini's *carioche* was rarely beaten, reinforcing a growing reputation for strength. In 1952, he expanded to make diesel-engined tractors, *with* two, three or four cylinders, and two years later produced the first air-cooled, direct-injection diesel tractor.

Within a decade, Lamborghini had made a second fortune with a company pro*ducing* heating and cooling equipment, which allowed

make cars that could challenge those from his great rival, Ferrari. At 46, Lamborghini started attaching his now famous badge to cars as well as tractors. He owned a string of exotic cars — a Maserati, Jaguar, Aston Martin, Chevrolet Corvette and several Ferraris — but he declared: "My machines will be faster, more beautiful and more expensive than those from Maranello."

He had become sceptical about the future of tractors — eventually selling the business to the Samé Group in 1972 — and concentrated on his supercars, *with exotics like his* Miura and Countach turning heads the world over, even if his company could never quite rival the sales achieved by Ferrari. While the latter found shelter under the wing of Fiat, *Lamborghini cars has had* many owners, including Chrysler and now MegaTech, an Indonesian company.

The Samé Group's tractors continue to carry the Lamborghini name and badge and *hold* has much prestige value as the cars. Unexpectedly, perhaps, more Lamborghini tractors — around 200 a year — are sold in the UK annually than the cars. The price tag is certainly lower, with the tractors retailing at £35,000-£75,000, yet the agricultural giants are every bit as luxurious as their car counterparts: even mid-range models get a stereo, air-conditioning, cruise control, air suspension seat and a *massive* engine controlled by 60 gears.

To reunite the two disparate branches of the family, I drove a Lamborghini Diablo SE to North Walsham Tractors in Norfolk, one of the few Lamborghini tractor dealers in the UK. Peering out of the Diablo's near ground-level side windows, the tractor towered over me. I clambered out over the car's door *sill* and started confronting the differences between two vehicles so outwardly different in style, temperament and practicality.

Start with the Diablo because its statistics do the *talking: it can top 206mph and* sprint to 62mph in an alarming four seconds. The cabin is familiar but, because the SE is a special lightweight derivative (10 per cent lighter than the more luxurious VT model), *it is bereft of goodies, such as* electric windows or even a stereo. Probably pointless anyway, as a turn of the ignition unleashes an astonishing roar that sounds like a stampede from the hooves of the many horses straining under the bonnet.

The towering Lamborghini 1050 Premium tractor, by comparison, is civilised. Outside, the cabin, the tractor's 4-cylinder turbo-charged com*pression engine produces a* deafening clatter; inside though, legislation ensures the driver does not get a blast of more than 72 decibels. I could listen to Radio 3 in comfort.

While the Diablo would be *tearing up the tarmac, throw* the tractor into first and you would need to pass a scarecrow to confirm you were moving, so indolent is its crawl speed of 200 metres per hour. Just as well the engine's use is measured not in miles but in hours.

The dashboard is a complicated place too, more helicopter cockpit than the farmer's little helper. Unlike the first *basic models, that offered little* more than the pulling power of a traditional ox, the modern versions boast "fly-by-wire" controls, and virtually everything, including gears, acceleration and towing equip*ment,* can be *operated from* the armrest.

While the tractor business has its own established network of sales outlets, Lamborghini cars have been going through a *period* of change . . . and change for the better. Control of imports was taken over by Porsche Cars Great Britain a year ago, with hopes high of a revival in flagging fortunes.

The ploy worked, and the company has sold 19 Diablos at between £148,000 and £175,000. There are orders for eight more from the Diablo range — SE, VT or new Roadster, which goes on sale this *spring — and 13 deposits have* been placed for the LP140, one of Lamborghini's new cars planned for launch in the next two years, even though potential customers have no idea of styling, price or the car's *name.*

The success would put a smile on the face of the man who just wanted to make cars faster and better than Ferrari . . . but that remarkable tractor would probably also tickle the fancy of the man who built his first from scrap metal.

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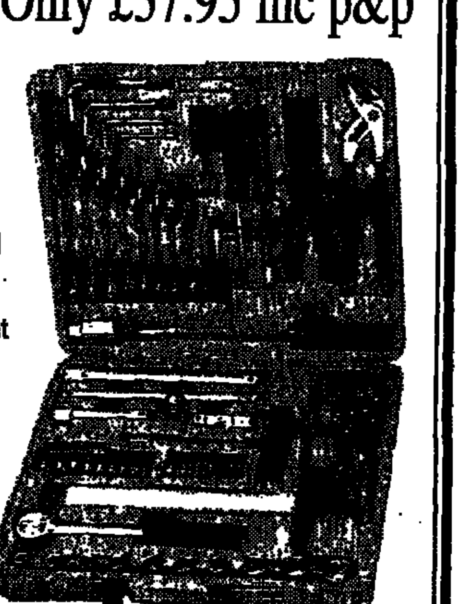

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M Reg MERCEDES E200 2.0 5-dr Est £19,799
M Reg MITSUBISHI GALANT 2.0 V6 24V 4-dr [illegible]
K Reg NISSAN MICRA 1.0 L 3-dr Ir 4K mls [illegible]
M Reg NISSAN PRIMERA 1.6 LX 5-dr Est [illegible]
M Reg NISSAN SUNNY 1.4 PREVIEW 3-dr [illegible]
M Reg PEUGEOT 306 1.4 VEGAS 5-dr [illegible]
M 1995 RENAULT 19 EXECUTIVE 16V 5-dr £10,499
M Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.2 RL PRIMA 3-dr [illegible]
N Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.4 RT 3-dr 6K mls [illegible]
M 1995 RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 RN 5-dr [illegible]
M Reg SEAT CORDOBA 1.6 CLX 5-dr [illegible]
N Reg TOYOTA CARINA 'E' 1.6 GLi 4/5-dr Ir 4K mls [illegible]
N Reg TOYOTA CARINA 'E' 1.6 GS 5-dr [illegible]
N Reg TOYOTA CARINA 'E' 1.6 GS 5-dr 6K mls [illegible]
N Reg TOYOTA CELICA 2.0 GT 2-dr £17,299
N 1996 TOYOTA PREVIA 2.4 GS 5-dr 1K mls £16,499
N Reg VW PASSAT 2.0 CL 4-dr [illegible]
N Reg VW PASSAT 2.0 CL 5-dr Est 6K mls £10,699
M 1995 TOYOTA CARINA 'E' 1.6 XLi 4-dr [illegible]
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M 1995 TOYOTA PREVIA 2.4 GS 5-dr Ir £14,899
N Reg VW PASSAT 1.9 GL TDi 5-dr Est Ir 6K mls £13,299
M Reg VW POLO 1.0 MATCH 3-dr £4,899

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N Reg CITROEN AX 1.5 ELATION 3-dr 7K mls £5,899
N Reg CITROEN ZX 1.9 DIMENSION 5-dr 6K mls [illegible]
M Reg FIAT UNO 1.7 STAT 3-dr Ir 6K mls £4,199
M 1995 ESCORT 1.8 GHIA TD 5-dr Est Ir 6K mls [illegible]
N Reg ESCORT 1.8 LX 5-dr 2K mls [illegible]
N Reg ESCORT 1.8 LX TD 5-dr Ir 1K mls [illegible]
N Reg FIESTA 1.8 FINESSE 3/5-dr Ir 2K mls [illegible]
M 1995 FIESTA 1.8 GHIA 5-dr 7K mls £7,399
N Reg FIESTA 1.8 QUARTZ 3/5-dr Ir 400 mls Ir [illegible]
M Reg MONDEO 1.8 GLX TD 5-dr [illegible]
N Reg MONDEO 1.8 VERONA TD 5-dr Ir 2K mls £10,899
M 1995 SCORPIO 2.5 GHIA TD 4-dr Ir 900 mls Ir £13,499
M Reg MERCEDES C250 2.5 CLASSIC 4-dr £18,799
M 1995 NISSAN SERENA 2.3 SLX 5-dr £12,499
M 1995 PEUGEOT 306 1.9 SR TD 4-dr Ir [illegible]
M 1995 RENAULT 19 RL PRIMA 5-dr Ir 8K mls [illegible]
M Reg RENAULT 19 RN TD 5-dr 9K mls £7,799

M 1995 RENAULT ESPACE 2.1 FAMILY TD 5-dr £14,499
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N Reg 218 SL TD 5-dr Ir [illegible]
M 1995 418 GS TD 4-dr [illegible]
N Reg 418 SL TD 4-dr [illegible]
M Reg MAESTRO 2.0 CLUBMAN TD 5-dr 7K mls £5,399
N Reg CITROEN AX 1.5 DEBUT 5-dr 1K mls [illegible]
N Reg CITROEN SYNERGIE 1.9 VSX TD 5-dr 4K mls £16,899
N Reg CITROEN XANTIA 1.9 LX TD 5-dr Ir 6K mls £10,899
M Reg FIAT PUNTO 1.7 SX TD 5-dr Ir 9K mls [illegible]
M 1995 ESCORT 1.8 GHIA TD 4/5-dr Ir 4K mls [illegible]
N Reg ESCORT 1.8 L 5-dr Del mls Ir £7,799
N Reg FIESTA 1.8 AZURA 3/5-dr Del mls Ir [illegible]
N Reg FIESTA 1.8 LX 3/5-dr Ir 700 mls Ir [illegible]
M 1995 FIESTA 1.8 QUARTZ 3-dr 4K mls [illegible]
N Reg MONDEO 1.8 LX TD 3/4/5-dr Ir 500 mls Ir £9,299
N Reg MONDEO 1.8 LX TD 5-dr Est 8K mls £11,199
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N Reg PEUGEOT 205 1.8 INCA 3-dr Del mls Ir [illegible]
N Reg PEUGEOT 306 1.9 XL 5-dr 9K mls [illegible]
N Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.9 RL PRIMA 3-dr 4K mls [illegible]
M 1995 115 SL 5-dr 5K mls [illegible]
M 1995 418 S TD 4-dr 6K mls [illegible]
M Reg METRO 1.4 5-dr 6K mls £4,899
M 1995 ASTRA 1.7 MERIT 5-dr Est Ir [illegible]
N Reg CAVALIER 1.7 GLS TD 5-dr Ir [illegible]
N Reg CORSA 1.5 LS TD 3-dr £7,499
M Reg OMEGA 2.5 ELITE TD 5-dr Est 7K mls £19,999
N Reg VW GOLF 1.9 CL TD 5-dr Est Ir 6K mls [illegible]
N Reg VW VENTO 1.9 CL TD 4-dr [illegible]
N 1996 ASTRA 1.7 LS TD 5-dr [illegible]
M 1995 ASTRA 1.7 SPORT TD 5-dr [illegible]
N Reg CAVALIER 1.7 LS TD 5-dr Ir [illegible]
N Reg CORSA 1.5 MERIT 3-dr 6K mls [illegible]
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How well can you see in the dark? **Sue Baker** has a warning for the final weeks of winter

A penalty that may be no light matter

As wintry weather lingers and drivers make lavish use of lights to pierce through the gloom, it is all too easy for miscreant bulbs to escape detection.

Among the RAC's annual tally of breakdown calls are some 10,000 seeking assistance for some kind of lighting failure — mainly blown headlamp bulbs and brake or indicator light problems.

The worst month is December, but the peak period persists through to the end of February before tailing off into the spring and summer.

The AA reports a similar pattern, with a November/December peak and the high incidence of lighting problems continuing through into March before dwindling to lower levels from April through to September.

AA breakdown calls just for headlamp failure — excluding problems with other lights — were 1,031 in November and 1,000 in December. In January, they totalled 692 and a similar figure is expected for last month. But in July, based on last year's figure, they will be down to just over 200.

One common cause of headlamp failure is damaging resulting from stone chips and water ingress. AA spokesman Luke Bosdet says that patrols called to help with a failed headlight often find that the root of the problem is a "fish bowl lamp" — where a small hole in the front of the glass has let rain or snow penetrate and an inch or so of water is swishing about inside.

"We urge drivers to be extra careful about checking their lights, especially at this time of year. Very few car owners actually do it, but the sensible advice really is to check all the lights once a week," he added.

"It's not just a question of blown bulbs. See and be seen is the golden rule, and letting lights stay caked with dirt can reduce their effectiveness by up to 50 per cent."

Although it could be argued a dirty windscreen is more dangerous than a blown bulb, an absent light is more likely to attract a brush with the law, and Michael Hannigan, the AA's senior legal adviser, cautions that the reaction of police to a car lighting fault may vary according to the time of day.

"If it is during daylight and the bulb failed during your journey, you would have a reasonable defence and would most likely be warned to have it repaired as soon as possible. But if it is at night, technically speaking you ought not to continue until it is repaired, and the police can issue a prohibition notice."

This effectively puts the car off the road until it is fixed. Alternatively, the police may issue a vehicle defect notice, requiring that evidence of the car being in a satisfactory condition must be produced at a police station within 14 days.

Although less inconvenient than a prohibition, this may still prove a costly penalty. To obtain the necessary documentation, the car has to be inspected at an MoT test station, and most will only supply the evidence on carrying out a full test.

Finding a blown bulb during a journey can be an irksome handicap. Not only does it risk becoming the target of a blue flashing light, it may also mean a lengthy detour to find a replacement.

Few drivers bother to carry spare bulbs, and there is no legal requirement to do so — at least in Britain. But in Spain it is mandatory to carry spare bulbs, and in some other countries — including France and Germany — drivers are strongly advised to do so. Here it is simply a wise precaution.

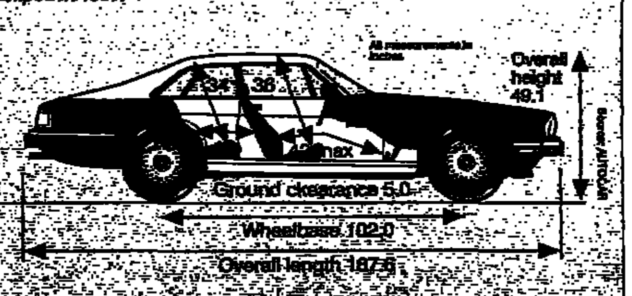
But beware of do-it-yourself repairs to lights unless certain of installing the right bulb. An incorrect replacement bulb could have been the cause of the erratic behaviour of the lights I witnessed on a Volvo in the rush hour.

The AA's diagnosis is that it was probably either an earthing problem or a short circuit, which could have been caused by a loose, dirty or corroded connection. But the RAC has an alternative suggestion. It could just as well have been a wrong replacement bulb in one of the lights, surmises spokesman Peter Brill.

"I had a very similar problem on my own car, and it turned out to be an incorrect bulb which was causing the aberration. When you have to change a bulb, it is vital to check that the type, size and strength is exactly the same as the one being replaced."

USED CAR BRIEF

JAGUAR XJS
Launched in 1975 in the wake of an oil crisis, omens were not good for the thirsty XJS which had to fill the shoes of the E-type that had died the year before. Critics said it had been designed by "a team of three and they weren't talking to each other." Two decades later the XJS is still going strong, but will be phased out when the XK8 goes on sale this year. For two decades it has upheld Jaguar's reputation for affordable glamour cars. Range radically revamped in 1991.



GOOD NEWS: Acknowledged as one of the best and most stylish grand tourers available despite its "flying buttress" pillars at the rear. Considering its luxury, style and superb engines, used models are modestly priced. Convertible especially allows a jet-set lifestyle for coach tour prices.

BAD NEWS: While the XJS might be cheapish to buy, running one is definitely dearish. Insurance, repair and servicing bills can be eye-watering, and fuel bills a petrol firm's delight. Expect 19mpg overall for V12 models, 20mpg in town and 28mpg overall for the 4.0 litre.

SAFETY: Jaguar's XJ saloons are among the strongest and safest cars on the road and the XJS shares much of that strength. Anti-lock brakes standard from 1988 and driver's side airbag from 1992.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: prices (including VAT) for V12 automatic, full stainless steel exhaust plus catalyst £600, front dampers £180 a pair, rear dampers £186 per pair, front brakepads £60, alternator £150 (exchange), starter motor £300, tyre £175.

PRICES: For earlier cars expect to pay £3,000 for a 1983 Y-reg 3.6-litre coupe, around £2,250 for a 1980 V12 5.3-litre coupe and £2,500 for a 1985 V12 5.3-litre cabriolet. Pay around £8,500 for a 1988 3.6-litre coupe, £15,000 for a 1990 V12 5.3-litre convertible and £28,000 for a 1993 4-litre convertible.

LOOK FOR: The six-cylinder 3.6-litre cars can help bring running costs down to the merely painful. Manual cars especially are more entertaining. The cabriolet is the car to look for, firmly in the Premier League for automotive class.

AVOID: Pre-1980 models might be cheap and buyable for less than £2,000, but the asking price will barely cover a basic wash and brush-up on the engine. High-mileage V12s must have full service history. Check for rust in wheelarches and sills, and in footwells of cabriolets, and soft-top roof for tears/rips.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1989 Jaguar XJS 5.3-litre V12 convertible costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims £306 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male with one year no claims living in South London pays £3,415 and a similar female pays £2,876.

OVERALL: The XJS must come with full service history if heartbreak and financial ruin are to be avoided. Steer clear of DIY restoration jobs. Choice of 3.6-litre and 4-litre engines plus the V12s in 5.3 and 6-litre give performance up to 150mph. Supposedly 2 + 2 but back seats are for maps or tiny children only. Classy cruiser and a handful when parking but at least everyone will be watching.

50 M-REGISTERED CARS UNDER £7,000

MODEL	PRICE		
	Feb-96	Mar-96	Chge
Rover Mini 1300 Sprite	4325	4395	1.61
Citroën AX 10 Debut 5dr	4650	4695	0.96
Daihatsu Mira 5dr	4525	4395	-2.87
FSO Caro 1.5 GLXi 5dr	4495	4525	0.66
Fiat Cinquecento 3dr	*3950*	*3950*	*0.00*
Fiat Panda 1.0 CLX 3dr	3925	3750	-4.45
Fiat Uno 1.0ie Start 3dr	4550	4650	2.19
Ford Fiesta 1.1i 3dr	4895	4925	0.61
Hyundai X2 1.3LS 5dr	4895	4875	-0.40
Lada Riva 1500 E 4dr	2995	2995	0.00
Lada Samara 1500 GL 5dr	4975	5175	4.02
Nissan Micra 1.0L 3dr	5175	4950	-4.34
Peugeot 106 Graduate 3dr	5475	5495	0.36
Peugeot 106 1.4 XR 3dr	6425	6525	1.55
Proton 1.3 GE 4dr	4775	4695	-1.67
Proton 1.3 GL Aeroback 5dr	5450	5350	-1.83
Renault 5 Campus Prima 3dr	4550	4625	1.64
Renault Clio RL 1.2 Prima 3dr	5795	5775	-0.34
Renault Clio 1.9 RL Prima Dies.3dr	6375	6375	0.00
Rover Metro 1.1 Quest 3dr	4525	4525	0.00
Rover Metro 1.1 C 5dr	5125	5125	0.00
Rover Metro 1.1 S 5dr	5875	5875	0.00
Rover Metro 1.4 LD 5dr	5675	5675	0.00
Seat Ibiza 1.4 CLX 3dr	6350	6375	0.70
Skoda Favorit GLXI 5dr	4925	5095	3.45
Skoda Favorit GLXI Estate	5750	5825	1.30
Subaru Vivio GLi 4WD 5dr	4975	4925	-1.00
Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS 3dr	6195	6295	1.61
Vauxhall Corsa 1.21 Merit 3dr	5825	5825	0.00
Vauxhall Corsa Merit Diesel 5dr	6250	6295	0.72
Rover Mini 1.3i Cooper	5475	5575	1.82
Asia Rocsta Hard Top	6395	6225	-2.65
Dacia Duster GLX Estate	3850	3950	1.41
Daihatsu Charade 1.3 GSE 3dr	*5195*	*5095*	*-1.92*
Fiat Punto 55 S 5dr	5875	5950	1.27
Fiat Tipo 1.4ie S 5dr	5850	5875	0.42
Fiat Tempra 1.6ie S 4dr	6150	6350	3.25
Ford Fiesta 1.1 LX 5dr	6175	6195	0.32
Ford Escort 1.3 5dr	5995	6195	3.33
Kia Pride 1.3 LX 5dr	4850	4925	1.54
Nissan Micra 1.3 LX 5dr	6150	5850	-4.87
Seat Toleda 1.6 CLi 5dr	6425	6525	1.55
Subaru Justy Si 3dr	6095	6095	0.00
Rover Maestro 1.3 Clubman 5dr	5125	5195	1.36
Citroën AX1.1 Forte	5475	5575	1.82
Seat Marbella 900 Fun 3dr	3895	3925	0.77
Ford Fiesta 1.8 Diesel 3dr	5595	5575	-0.35
Ford Fiesta 1.3i Auto 3dr	5795	5475	-5.52
Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Merit 3dr	6775	6775	0.00
Kia Mentor 1.6 SLX 4dr	6295	6395	1.58

CAP MOTOR RESEARCH LTD.

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on M-reg. low mileage cars. Figures supplied by ***CAP Motor Research.***

DRIVERS in the North East are set to buck the expected "feel-bad" factor this year and flock to dealership showrooms, a new study claims. As many as 40 per cent of motorists in the region expect to replace their cars this year, compared with national figures showing that only one driver in four plans to change cars in 1996, the lowest rate overall for two years, *writes Vaughan Freeman*.

The study, carried out by Autoglass, found that worries over disposable income, as well as anxiety over job security and employment prospects, mean that the rate of car replacements this year will be down on 1995, when a third of motorists replaced their cars, and also on 1994, when 28 per cent did so.

A survey of 655 motorists nationwide found that fears about job security were putting two out of three off the idea of buying a replacement new or used car, and that nationally seven out of 10 drivers were simply unable to afford a change in 1996.

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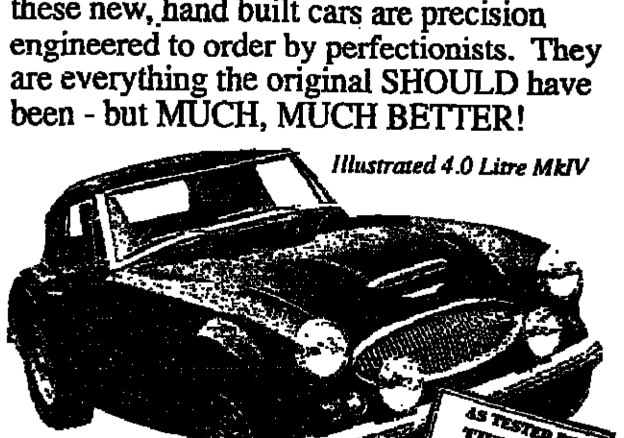

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BF 11	H3 ARN	2 LEW	PTS 175
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692 AAD	448 BOM	593 DCG	EHV 80	92 FPT	A1 HGV	771 JTC	MFC 414	OAP 762	RLE 679	TKJ 57
834 AAR	897 BOV	DCS 17	EJ 3011	FR 5926	679 HHY	848 JTT	7690 MH	OCD 483	5 RM	TLO 255
ABG 271	72 BPA	DD 17	EJK 351	343 FRT	HJE 626	180 JW	B7 MJR	OE 2	1 RNA	369 TMD
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963 ABJ	15 BR	1 DDJ	892 EKH	FST 38	HJY 748	448 JYB	256 MKM	OJ 8186	4 ROB	TOV 78
159 ACY	48 BSG	44 DEF	274 EKO	298 FTM	HKH 123	1 KBF	MMM 258	2 OL	440 ROD	679 TPC
8525 AD	BT 8854	DEM 2	EKP 454	B4 FUN	HKO 695	KBL 243	747 MOA	OLJ 629	ROO 23	982 TPG
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14 AE	221 BTJ	DFO 989	382 ELM	79 FWN	977 HLN	222 KDV	25 MS	OOV 306	213 RPJ	2 TUG
AGL 289	M15 BUG	DGE 1	556 EMW	GAZ 5107	904 HME	KEC 534	MTJ 198	OP 8754	846 RPK	TYN 568
B7 AGT	98 BUK	1 DGL	25 ENK	GBD 72	HMJ 533	KFB 1	8361 MU	OTK 626	794 RPU	UBK 421
AHW 985	BWC 956	DHT 309	ENN 801	117 GBD	5 HO	KFN 769	B5 MUG	OVV 1	RRJ 28	UF 8029
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AKN 547	535 BWV	111 DL	EPM 798	514 GDM	724 HPF	KHV 136	MWU 26	PDF 982	57 RU	9887 VF
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11 ANE	6310 BY	DLN 429	439 ERH	GFJ 189	HPN 530	KK 25	650 MYC	842 PEH	RV 7163	VOL 954
ANP 192	CAC 677	83 DLT	ETN 865	334 GFJ	9 HPX	871 KKJ	NCE 228	PEP 21	RVV 53	61 VPL
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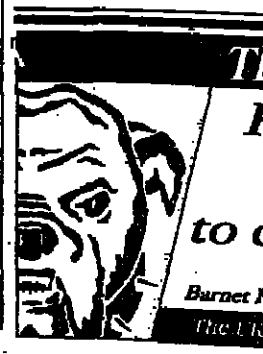

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What in the world does everyone want?

Alan Copps on the results of Honda asking how to design a Civic of the sixth generation

The Honda Civic is one of those cars that seems to have been with us for ever. The new models just introduced here are the sixth generation of a series that has sold a staggering total of more than ten million worldwide, but they are far from being simple refinements of the old.

The Civic was one of the pioneers in the class of "world cars", and with every new development that title becomes more appropriate. The five-door version built at the company's new plant in Swindon has become its fastest seller in Britain and is now joined by two-, three- and four-door versions made in Japan and the American-built coupé.

The problem with world cars — with a few honourable exceptions such as the Ford Mondeo — is that they tend to be bland attempts to create vehicles which are all things to all men. So before creating this latest range, Honda carried out a worldwide survey of customers who already ran Civics, a novel approach for a company that has previously always used its engineering skills as the main starting point for new models. The outcome was an interesting indication of preferences in different areas.

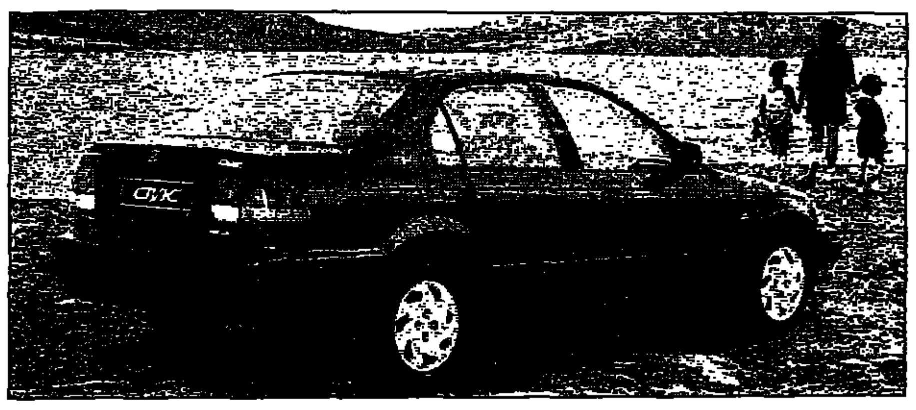
While Europeans demanded low noise levels and interior refinement, Japanese customers were more concerned about economy and Americans were very anxious to reduce tyre wear. The Japanese also expressed a preference for more interior comfort, especially better shaped seats.

This is one area where the results of that research become obvious: the driving position of the four-door model I tested was real living room relaxed, living up to its promise of "big car" comfort and offering excellent visibility. The instruments were not only good-looking but clearer to read, especially at night, than any other car I have recently driven. But I wonder whether the researchers asked anyone about the radio? The on/off switch was a real fingernail-breaker and the volume and wavelength were all controlled by the same square button, up and down for volume and side to side for wavelength. The possibilities for error were so great, I listened to tapes.

The exterior is longer than previous versions and the styling, although hardly exciting, has an elegance that was lacking in the past.

Where this car really scored, however, was in quiet economy. The VTEC engine is electronically controlled to keep consumption to a minimum when driven gently and to provide more responsive performance for the driver in a hurry. This, allied to the excellent reputation Honda has for quality, wherever its cars are built, means the Civic name is likely to be with us for a long time yet.

HONDA CIVIC LS



Body style: Four-door saloon.
Engine: Four-cylinder, 16-valve 1493cc giving 115ps at 6,300 rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual.
Performance: Max speed 119mph: 0-62mph in 10.4 seconds.
Equipment: Central locking, immobiliser, twin airbags, power steering, electric windows and sunroof.
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Steven Carey, hairdresser to the world's headline-makers, talks to **Andrew Pierce**

STEERING COLUMN

On the road to Mayfair via Oldham

ALAN WELLER

Carey and his Range Rover Vogue SE: "Cars never argue with me, but I've yet to master the traffic wardens"

A steady procession of some of the world's leading models, who are in Britain for London Fashion Week, have beaten a path to the door of Steven Carey Hair and Beauty Salon in Mayfair.

Carey, crimper to the rich and famous, has worked with the models' favourite photographers such as Bailey, Snowdon and Lichfield. He has styled the hair of Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino, William Hurt, Felicity Kendal, Sarah Miles, Joanna Lumley and Tom Jones. He twice styled the hair of the Duchess of York.

A regular on television and radio Carey, 37, who has a team of 23 at his salon, started off aged 16 in a local barber's shop, Giacomo Pierro, in Oldham. He charged £1.10 for a haircut; men now pay £39 for a cut and blow dry and women £59.

How did you first learn to drive?

On the driveway in my father's house. I used to spend hours going backwards and forwards until I plucked up enough courage to go on the road. In the process I reversed into a sewage pipe. I was just 17. It quickly put an end to my driving lessons. It was sometime before I tried again. I failed the first time — I couldn't remember where I'd parked my car.

What was your first car?

A Fiat 500, which I bought from a friend for £10. It was my pride and joy. It had no seat or floor on the passenger side. With the inclusion of some planks of wood, and an old school chair, my car was complete. Almost. Once it started I had to fuse some wires in the engine to ensure it would not stop. It kept me mobile for six months until it finally died. My father had been desperate to tow it away.

What car do you drive now, and why?

A Range Rover Vogue SE — my latest pride and joy. It is ideal for a family of three. I drive to Mayfair, from my home in Swiss Cottage, which can take anything from five minutes to 45. Cars never argue with me. Obstacles such as traffic lights, zebra crossings, pedestrians and crazy drivers I can deal with. But I have yet to master the traffic wardens.

Do you like driving?

It's one of my favourite pastimes. It is the only place where you do not have to talk to anyone.

What is your most hated car?

The one which indicates after it has turned; the one car which uses two lanes instead of one; worst of all, the car in my space outside *my* house.

What is your dream car?

An old Bentley or a new Bentley Azure. It has everything: style sophistication and elegance.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Smiling and waving at other drivers when they are annoyed with me.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they chat away and pose on their mobile phones oblivious to the traffic jam they are creating. If only they knew how naff they looked. They should buy a hands free telephone.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Every day is an adventure, but it has to be the time I had a wet shave on the M6 in the passenger seat of a BMW. I was on my way to the wedding of a client, Sally Faber, the television presenter, and was running late. I shaved off one of my sideburns without realising it.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Six, I'm afraid. I once broke down in the fast lane on the M6. The police had to tow me off on to the hard shoulder. I should have rung the AA. I did not realise that my tax and insurance had run out two days earlier. But they did.

What do you listen to in the car?

Capital Radio and Kiss FM. Sometimes Michael Jackson and Motown. When I am stressed or tired, I will play Pavarotti or Carreras.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Abolish the privatised clamping and towing companies. Why should we pay more money when we already have road tax?

What is your favourite car advertisement?

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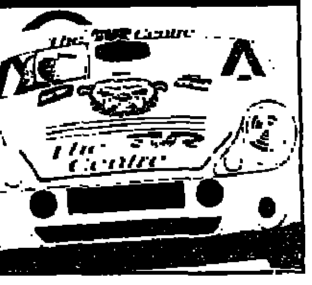

Alan Copps, Editor of *Car 96*, looks at some of the new models which will be unveiled in Geneva next week

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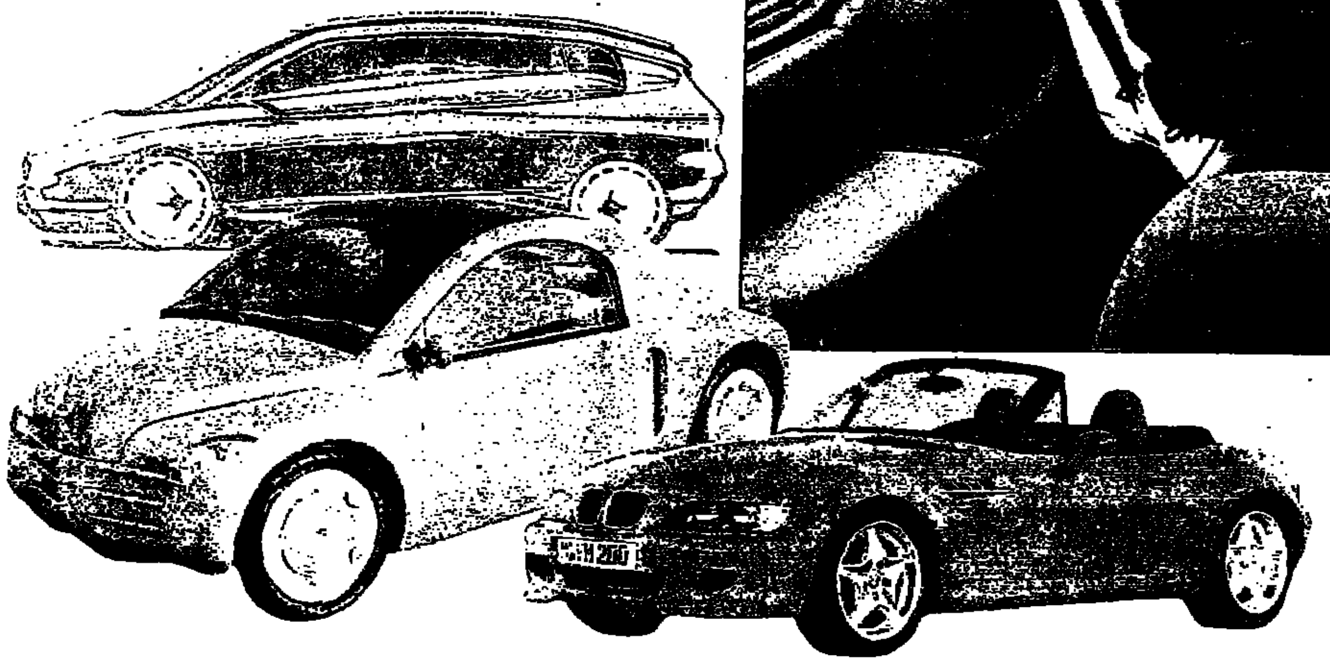


Clockwise from top right: the Sintra, Vauxhall's American-built fuel-saving people carrier; the Bentley Continental T; BMW's M Roadster, extra power added to James Bond's *Goldeneye* car; the Renault Fiftie, descendant of the 4CV; and the first original model from Holland's Nedcar factory

Vauxhall's late but impressive entry in the people carrier stakes is one of a host of models to make its debut next week at the Geneva Motor Show, traditionally the most important international launching pad for new cars.

The Sintra offers seating for up to eight people and space for their luggage on a platform just eight inches longer than the Vectra. It also promises car-like ride and handling and a wide range of safety features. But its biggest impact in what is already considered an over-crowded market is likely to rest with its record on economy. The use of lightweight materials such as aluminium and magnesium for many components, together with Vauxhall's multi-valve ECOTEC engines, which already make the Vectra the most economical car in its class, makes the US-built Sintra a serious challenge to the Renault Espace, Ford Galaxy and Peugeot/Citroën/Fiat family of MPVs. An overall fuel consumption figure of 33.6 mpg is claimed for the 2.2-litre engined version, while the top-of-the-range 3-litre V6 promises a maximum speed of 126mph.

On the sporting side, Jaguar's XK8 faces tough competition for the limelight from BMW's new M Roadster and the Aston Martin V8 Coupé. The BMW is the big punchy version of the Z3 which has attracted so much hype from James Bond's patronage in *Goldeneye*. The M produces 300bhp from its 3.2-litre straight six and promises to match the Jaguar's acceleration with a 0-62mph figure of "under six seconds". Top speed is electronically limited to 155mph. Production dates and prices have yet to be announced.

Similar performance is promised for the Aston Martin V8 Coupé which uses a 350bhp 5.3-litre engine normally linked to a four-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission, although manual five- and six-speed versions will be available. Production has already started at the company's Newport Pagnell factory, where it takes crafstmen 15 weeks to hand-build each car. The price tag of £139,500 promises each one will be tailor-made for the customer.

Also in the ultra-luxury, tailor-made class are three new models from Rolls-Royce and Bentley, including the new top-of-the-range Rolls-Royce Park Ward, said to offer unlimited scope for personalisation. Each customer will have the opportunity to design an individual interior and specify options for chauffeur-driven luxury, business use or family touring. These features include seperate air conditioning controls for front and rear seats, remote control of in-car entertainment (which can include television/video) and illuminated picnic tables.

The two new Bentleys are both launched with heavy emphasis on the marque's sporting heritage. The Continental T is a more powerful version of the successful R coupé with a reworked interior and improved brakes. The Turbo R Sport is specifically aimed at the European market with a staellite navigation system integrated into the interior design, which also includes startling use of carbon fibre where traditional Bentleys sported walnut.

Among the concept cars, Renault's retro-styled Fiftie is likely to attract a lot of attention with its shape based on the 4CV of 1946 which became the first French car to have a million-plus production run. The two-seat coupé is built on the same chassis as the windscreen-less Renault Sport Spider which will be cutting a dash on circuits around Europe this summer in a special racing series. Its four-cylinder 1149cc engine is a unit destined for Renault's small production cars including the Clio.

There is also a concept from Nedcar, the Dutch-based company which makes cars for Volvo and Mitsubishi, the first vehicle made by the firm under its own name. The Access project (it stands for Aluminium-based Concept of a CO_2 Emissions Saving Sub-compact car) is designed to display the company's advanced engineering capabilities in a small, economical family transport.

EUROPE STARTS TO CUT THE JAPANESE LEAD

AFTER years of Japanese domination of just about every customer satisfaction survey, the Europeans are finally punching back.

A survey of 20,000 buyers this week showed a surge of approval for European-made cars for their style, driveability — and, remarkably, their reliability. European manufacturers wiped out their Japanese opposition in the league tables for executive and luxury cars, with Mercedes-Benz dominating. But the biggest suprises were for minis and compacts, where Japanese reliability has been legendary.

Fiat's Punto was best supermini, with the Renault Clio not far behind. The Nissan Micra was third — but, never fear, that model is made in Britain at Washington, Tyne and Wear. The Toyota Corolla and Mazda 323 were still highest scoring compacts, although Rover 400 showed strongly. But the Renault Laguna and Audi 80/90 took honours among medium models.

So what happened? Professor Dan Jones, who led the research, says: "The European industry has responded to the shock of Japanese success with a remarkably strong showing. The Europeans have simply raised their game and the results are starting to show through in surveys like this."

TOP CARS

Superminis: Fiat Punto, Renault Clio, Nissan Micra.

Compacts: Mazda 323, Toyota Corolla, Rover 400.

Medium: Renault Laguna, Audi 80/90, Toyota Carina.

Executive: Mercedes E-class and C-class, BMW 5-series.

Luxury: Mercedes S-class, Rolls-Royce, Jaguar/Daimler.

4x4: Mitsubishi Shogun, Range Rover, Land Rover.

DR DASHBOARD

One bad tyre should not be blown up too much

Q Good heavens, Dr Dashboard. That case this week in which a Dunlop tyre burst was horrifying. My car has Dunlops. What on earth should I do?

A For a start, don't panic. The chances of you having the same Dunlop SP4 radial as in that accident are pretty remote. That SP4 was phased out in 1985 and millions have since covered billions of miles without problems.

Q But the the tyre ripped and caused the accident, simple as that. Surely that shouldn't happen?

A True. The judge decided there was a manufacturing fault, but there was also a moral in the story because the court heard that this tyre was in less than perfect condition: worn, under-inflated and it had been punctured and badly repaired, according to Dunlop's lawyers.

Q Are you trying to tell me that tyres are so vulnerable they can cause accidents as bad as that?

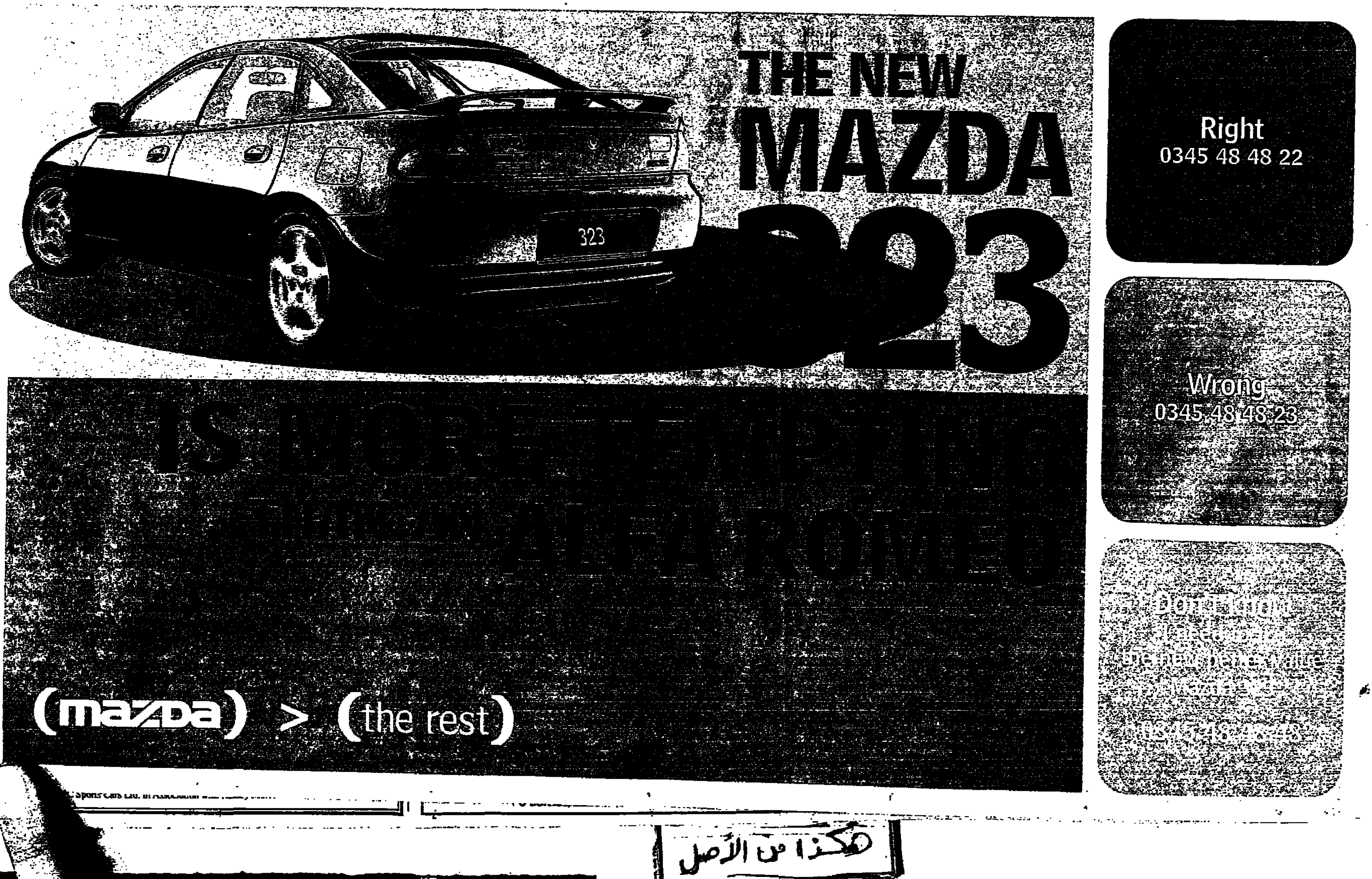
A Actually, tyre failure of that magnitude is quite rare, according to the AA, accounting for only 0.3 per cent of crashes. What is not known is how much rotten tyres contribute to accidents. Cars with worn tyres are more likely to veer out of control, particularly in the wet or on tricky surfaces, while braking distances can be lengthened enormously.

Q But I can't be going backwards and forwards to Kwik-Fit worrying about my tyres. Is there any way to ensure my tyres are OK without undue fuss?

A Modern tyres are pretty robust, but, like water, oil and the petrol tank, they need regular checking. SP Tyres UK, which makes Dunlops, says check the pressures and ensure that there is the minimum tread of 1.6 millimetres, look for bulges in the sidewalls or cuts or nicks, and make sure you have a good spare.

Q SP should talk if they own the Dunlop name! They have been in court over this whole issue.

A Actually, they have not. This case dates back to the days when Dunlop, the tyre-maker started by John Boyd Dunlop at the birth of the motor industry, was struggling. In 1985, the company was split up, with Sumitomo of Japan buying the Dunlop brand name and factory in Birmingham to form SP Tyres UK. The BTR conglomerate picked up Dunlop Ltd., which owned some other interests. But the litigation related to tyres made originally by Dunlop Ltd — and BTR was in the firing line from then on. Complicated, but that's modern multi-national business for you.



Right
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Wrong
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هكذا من الأصل